



Characteristics of a Young Child

PHYSICAL

- Young children are emerging from their infant years.
- From babyhood through early childhood, we see an interesting pattern. (These children need a great deal of action, interspersed with short periods of rest.)
- Some children are able to move rhythmically. (Not all will have this ability, but will develop these skills simply by being part of the group.)
- Preschoolers have limited control with crayons and paint. (They will gradually become so fascinated with trying for recognizable images that they will teach themselves the control they need.)

COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

- Young children are very busy exploring the world and getting new ideas about every day. (Coming to know God by discovering and examining God's word is an ideal focus for young children.)
- Young children have many new ideas to talk about. (Encouraging children to share their thoughts and ideas is vital to their learning and to their cognitive and emotional development.)
- Young children begin to understand that certain symbols stand for something special. (The quality of stories, books, and posters encourage a child's cognitive development along with expanding their world through numbers, shapes and colors.)
- Young children pick up new ideas best by experience, experimentation and exploration. (They are very receptive to brief "catchy" rhymes, prayer and some passages.)

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Young children need adult help in learning the correct actions to take and the best words to say. (Lessons focusing on tolerance, cooperation, friendship, sharing and other Christian values help foster social development.)
- Little by little, children become less self-centered. (They will learn to fall into other people's plans and find out that it is actually fun; at the same time learn the joys of sharing.)

MORAL DEVELOPMENT

- Young children are quick to imitate our behavior. (They are great copycats and keen observers; even when they seem not to be paying attention they are picking up words, gestures and behavior from you.)
- Young children truly want to do the right thing. (We achieve our best results with sensitivity and understanding. We don't expect more of our young children than they are capable of giving.)

EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Feelings are a great part of young children's lives. (We can talk to other people and we can talk to God. It is never too early to let youngsters know that their faith can help them deal with negative feelings.)
- Children are fearful in their stronger emotions. (They always welcome outside help...a gentle touch; a few quiet words make all the difference.)
- The teacher of young children experience feelings too. (This shows the children that emotions don't need to carry us away. They are not to be feared or buried; they can be dealt with.)

St. Thomas Preschool Faith Formation continues to work in creating an encouraging environment for your preschooler through color, sound, shapes, and symbols and a "variety" of stories that are age appropriate. Our Staff also supports an environmental class participation through: prayer, project activities, scripture, program events, along with brain-based learning and music.

Class participation occurs at many levels through praying and celebrating that can be out loud, in silent reflection, and through individual prayer and para liturgy.

OVERVIEW

- † Christian Beliefs
- † Faith Objectives
- † Religious Vocabulary
- † Unit Materials
- † Supplemental Materials
- † Scripture.

“Be a Mentor with a Servants Heart”