

Methods for Teaching Toddlers & Twos

- A. How toddlers and two year olds learn. Two year olds are:
1. Imitators
 2. Experimenters
 3. Learning language skills
 4. Learning through important relationships
 5. Self-contained (group exercises don't mean as much as individual encounters. A teacher's helper is helpful here.
- B. What works and what doesn't work for Twos:
1. Do's for Twos:
 - a. Do create a safe, interesting environment where children can freely explore.
 - b. Do refer frequently to God, Jesus, and the Bible to lay a solid foundation for future spiritual growth.
 - c. Do create an emotionally warm environment that builds trust.
 - d. Do present Bible stories in brief, short presentations, encouraging movement and participation by the children.
 - e. Do encourage lots of talking and repeating.
 - f. Do teach children individually or in small groups.
 - g. Do encourage crafts and projects which allow children to enjoy the process of creating.
 2. Don'ts for Toddlers & Twos:
 - a. Don't have any unsafe conditions which would keep the children from moving about.
 - b. Don't assume that toddlers are too young to be exposed to Bible truths.
 - c. Don't tell lengthy Bible stories as children sit passively.
 - d. Don't discourage children from talking and interacting.
 - e. Don't teach the class at one time if the class is large. Helpers are helpful here.
 - f. Don't pass out class activities which require coloring in lines or in which all the crafts look exactly alike the same when finished.
- C. Specific Suggestions
1. Use action stories – simple drama: short and full on conversation
 2. Use real life objects to demonstrate Bible stories.
 3. Use the Bible itself.
 - a. Hold it while you tell the story so the children can see the connection.
 - b. Be reverent in your attitude toward the Bible.

- a. Handle it tenderly.
- b. This age group likes tenderness.
4. Repetition is very useful for this age.
5. This age group likes colorful things.