

THE CRECHE/NURSERY

WORKING WITH UNDER 2s

WHAT TO EXPECT

These little ones like to do the same activities repeatedly; it's how they learn. They also like to do things themselves. You will need to get down on the floor to play with them. They like you to be at their eye-level. Pay attention to what they are doing and encourage them. Show them simple puzzles and stories. Name objects and talk to them about what you see and do, so they can learn. Remember, they have a short attention span of one to two minutes.

They enjoy hearing poems and songs and doing actions to them. Their favourite words are 'me' and 'mine'. They like to play near other toddlers, but not necessarily 'with' them. This is called 'parallel' play. This age group will probably want to drink from a cup without assistance. They want to do things for themselves. Stacking and unstacking blocks is an enjoyable, and repeated, activity. They are learning to do things with their hands— turning knobs, pushing buttons and turning pages of board books.

When you don't understand them, they can become frustrated. They are only *learning* to share and cooperate. Sometimes their moods are based on their physical needs— hunger, tiredness and they can change quickly from laughter to tears.



They will feel neglected when you give more time to others than to them. They like to know when they have done something well.. Smile at them and encourage them.



Kids spell love 't-i-m-e'.

WORKSHEET

CRECHE ASSISTANT

Try answering these short quizzes. Don't worry if you're not sure of an answer. Your key leader or children's ministry coordinator will be happy to help you.

FILL IN BLANKS WITH WORDS FROM THE BOX.

1. Try to distract a _____ toddler by refocusing his or her attention on a new activity.
2. Please _____ before you come in the Crèche. Biscuits are for the children.
3. Please remember not to _____ of a child's speech or _____ what they say.
4. When a child needs your attention, _____ on the floor with him or her.

shoes	get down	eat
imitate	fussy	never
make fun	alone	sand

Match each question with the appropriate answer:.

What should you do if:

1. ...Michael and Noah both want the same truck?
2. ...your friends come to visit you in the Crèche?
3. ... Kimberly throws a toy?
4. ...Adam cries when he first comes into the room?
5. ...Jonathan stops playing with the blocks and goes to ride on the horse?
6. ...Natalie, who has been asleep in her pram, wakes up and starts to cry?

Choices:

- A. Pick up the blocks unless someone else begins playing with them.
- B. Tell your friends you'll talk to them after church.
- C. Reassure him that his parents will come back. Then invite him to play with you.
- D. Distract one child with a different toy.
- E. Say, "You need to play with the toys, not throw them."
- F. Talk to her; show her a toy. If she continues to cry, the adult leader will probably pick her up.



Have a big smile. Sit on the floor with the children. Give encouraging words.