

Coffee Talk

Conversation Starter Sheet for Children's Bible Study Leaders

Child Development

Read or recite Luke 2:52. Jesus is our example of growth, maturity and development. Preschoolers are growing and developing at an awesome rate. How can we, as children's teachers, help channel their quest for learning toward wisdom (mental development), favor with God (spiritual development) and favor with man (social development)?

What are the characteristics of children? Take 15 seconds and list the characteristics of children in your class.

- Did you include: active, curious, creative, sensitive, exploring limits, beginning to develop abstract thoughts, and has a limited attention span?
- What are some age-appropriate activities you are using in your classroom?
- How do you use variety in your class schedule to allow for limited attention span?
- How can you change your schedule to better meet the needs of the children you teach?

What do children need? How are we meeting these needs?

- Love
- Trust
- Acceptance
- Independence
- Security
- Guidance
- Accomplishment

Tea Time Tip - We teach children in the ways God has gifted them to learn.

What are learning styles? Children learn in many ways. A learning style is an overall way in which a person prefers to learn. Each child not only learns differently, but already has

tendencies for strengths in many areas of learning styles. Children are drawn to and excel in certain types of activities because they are strong in a particular type of learning style.

As classroom teachers who strive to meet the needs of every child, we can become more familiar with the different learning styles and begin to more actively search for specific children’s strengths in each of these areas. We can set up our classrooms with all seven areas in mind.

Match the learning style to the activity that children would enjoy:

Musical	keeping a journal writing about self
Natural	engaging in active games
Reflective	learning songs about Bible people
Verbal	listen to a story
Relational	making projects following a plan
Logical	caring for plants
Physical	working with others on a project
Visual	expressing ideas without words (drawing, photos)

What are the 10 concept areas that we use to teach children? (Refer to the *Levels of Biblical Learning* chart.) Unscramble these words to find the titles of the 10 concept areas.

doG	_____	
ueJss	_____	
larutaN Wdlor	_____	_____
leBib	_____	
lefS	_____	
ylHo Stiirp	_____	_____
erthOs	_____	
lmFyia	_____	
vatSalion	_____	
urcChh	_____	

- Each Bible Study unit relates to one of these concept areas. What concept area are we studying this unit?
- The concept areas provide a biblical framework for laying a foundation that becomes the pathway to conversion, spiritual growth and a biblical worldview.

Teachers and parents have a narrow window of opportunity in which to help children develop a biblical worldview.

Tea Time Tip - Teach as though the future depends on it--it does! George Barna teaches in *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions* that a child’s worldview will be formed by the age of twelve and will seldom change in adulthood. A worldview is the criteria a person uses to make a decision and is either biblical or secular. For this reason, it is imperative that teachers lay a strong biblical foundation in the early years.

Pray together and ask God for wisdom in helping children in your class develop and learn in the way God has planned for them. Thank God that each one is unique and special. Praise God for each child in your class and pray for them by name.

Questions for the Pastor: Just as children have learning styles, so do adults and youth. How are you using variety in your sermons, ministries, and Worship Services to meet the needs of the different learning styles?