

AGES AND STAGES

For Children's Ministry Volunteers

Preschool

(3 years - 5 years old)



What am I like?

Physically

I can dress myself, toilet myself and wash my own hands. I may need help with buttons, zippers, snaps, etc. I can walk and run. I have lots of energy.

Emotionally

I have a sense of autonomy and independence. I can be silly, rough, loud, fearful. I am often aggressive and may hit, bite, slap or have temper tantrums. I may have an imaginary friend. My feelings can get hurt easily.

Intellectually

My vocabulary is growing and I talk a lot. I may try swear/bathroom words. I ask lots of questions. I frequently tell tall tales. My attention span is short (five to ten minutes). I have an active imagination. I am interested in nature, especially animals. I like music, painting and drawing. I can make choices. I am literal-minded. I learn best through play.

Socially

I need to socialize and want friends. I am learning to take turns, share and be patient. I can play more cooperatively with my friends without constant adult supervision. I am curious about the differences between boys and girls. I test the rules by breaking them. I like to help.

What can you do to make me comfortable?

- Ask my parents what works for me.
- Learn and use my name.
- If I feel shy my first couple of times in attendance, invite my parent/guardian to remain with me until I am comfortable and familiar with the new environment
- Talk to me.
- Listen to me.
- Read books to me
- Sing with me.
- Laugh with me.
- Keep me safe when I play.
- Let me do things by myself.
- Give me choices.
- Answer my questions simply.
- Provide opportunities for taking turns and sharing.
- Have reasonable classroom agreements and be firm and consistent about keeping them.
- Let me know that I am doing a good job.
- Help me resolve my own disagreements with my friends.
- Acknowledge and name my feelings so I might learn appropriate ways to express them.
- Provide open-ended art activities for me (process rather than product projects).
- Encourage hand washing after toileting and before eating.
- Disinfect toys and hard surfaces regularly.
- Affirm my value in the world.

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What do I need in my learning environment?

- Safety first
- Familiar faces
- Familiar routines
- Manipulative toys
- Blocks
- Books
- Puzzles
- Lots of art supplies
- Rugs, floor pillows
- Background music
- Songs with movement
- Songs to help me know when it's time to sit in circle, put away the toys, etc.
- Snuggly stuffed animals
- Dress up clothes
- Dolls and puppets
- Housekeeping area with plastic dishes, utensils
- Small table and chairs
- Simple concepts to learn
- Simple words and pictures to illustrate the lesson idea
- Free playtime to settle me in before a lesson
- Activities that involve all five senses
- Open space for freedom of movement
- A five minute warning for change or end of activity
- Playdough with safe im-
- plements like cookie cutters, popsicle sticks.
- Electrical outlets covered
- Baby Wipes and tissue
- Restroom nearby
- Repetition, repetition



Affirmations for Establishing Identity and Power Three, four and five years of age and ever after By Jean Illsley Clarke

You can explore who you are and find out who other people are.

You can be powerful and ask for help at the same time.

You can try out different roles and ways of being powerful.

You can find out the results of your behavior.

All of your feelings are OK with me.

You can learn what is pretend and what is real.

I love who you are.