

## **Become a Better Teacher by Knowing Your Students**

### **Children – 4-7 Years Old**

- Learning how they relate to God, to family members, and to other people in the world
- Learning more and more about the world (outside of home) and what it is like
- Learning to separate from family members for extended periods of time in a day
  - Learning new skills to help take care of themselves when away from family
  - Building confidence in their new abilities
  - Making friends (outside of family members and other familiar people)
- Learning to read, but usually not yet “fluent” readers
  - For purposes of curriculum, this age group is referred to as “Pre-Readers”
  - Learning to write name well
  - Learning to write all of the letters
  - Learning to read, write, and copy individual words and short sentences or phrases
  - Learning the fundamentals of spelling
- Learning about numbers and arithmetic
- Counting numbers, and learning to write numbers (up to 10, 100, and 1000+)
  - Learning to do Addition and Subtraction
  - Multiplication and Division introduced (or taught)
  - Early mathematical word problems
- Perfecting large motor skills (legs and upper arms)
  - Running, Jumping, Climbing, Standing on one foot/ balancing
  - Rhythmic Movements such as: Dancing, Hopping, Marching
  - Complex skills such as: kicking a ball to someone else, throwing a ball into something, batting a ball, running a race with others, jumping rope, etc
- Perfecting fine motor skills (hand and fingers)
  - Clapping hands, Snapping fingers, Picking up and working with small objects
  - Coloring (simple to complex drawings) with crayons and markers
  - Drawing stick-figures, persons, animals, things, and places (house, etc.)
  - Finger-painting, and eventually painting with a brush
  - Creating objects with clay / Play-Doh
  - Songs with more and more complex hand and finger motions
  - Writing letters, numbers, name, words, and later short phrases or sentences
- Developmental Characteristics
  - Beginning to separate reality from fantasy
  - Enjoys dramatic play
  - Creative
  - Attention span: 10-15 mins.
  - Good memories
  - Limited understanding of time and space
  - Literal, concrete thinker
  - Imaginative, curious, imitative, expanding vocabulary
  - Desires to please
  - Wants to be independent

- Learning cooperation
- Fearful and emotional
- Talkative
- Desires and seeks attention
- Interested in peer group
- Developing self-control
- Children in this age group enjoy these types of play:
  - imagining things and “pretend” play
  - playing in progressively larger groups of children for longer periods of time
  - discovering more about sounds, textures, colors, smells, tastes
  - Working with paint, colors, markers, glue, scissors, string, yarn and other media
  - Playing simple instruments: drums, cymbals, bells, etc. (Usually very **loudly!**)
  - Singing familiar songs as a group
  - Dancing, marching, and moving to music
  - Simple games that require some new skill
  - Acting out stories and re-telling stories
- Spiritual Messages they Need to Hear
  - God loves you.
  - God loves everyone. (Family, friends, neighbors.)
  - God made everything perfectly.
  - God knows you.
  - God made you special and unique
  - You are valuable to God and to others.
  - God hears our prayers.
  - God is... (Dependable, Trustworthy, Always Good)
  - There is a difference between right and wrong
  - God has been involved with us through history.
  - God has a plan for the future.
  - Jesus is God’s Son.
  - Jesus loves you.
  - Sometimes we sin (We choose to do things that we know are wrong/bad).
  - Reassure child that we all make mistakes. Mistakes are not the same as “sins.”
  - Jesus came to pay for all our sins.
  - Because of what Jesus did for us, we can live with Him forever.
  - We can accept Jesus as our Savior.
  - Modeling both forgiveness and reconciliation
- Hearing and Understanding Bible Stories
  - Able to understand (and answer questions about) the main points of story
  - With timeline, better able to understand how stories go together historically
  - Beginning to understand abstract concepts such as: self-sacrifice, love for others, faith, doubt, sin, guilt, and forgiveness.
  - Bible’s standards for lifestyle choices
- Learn to pray together