

EXPERIENCES WITH REAL THINGS

Young children learn best from the real world. Provide some experiences for them, using the real things pictured on the Large Picture Cards. Here are some ideas for using the toy pictures.

A BALL GAME

Let the picture of the ball be a springboard to this game with a real ball. Begin rolling a large ball to one of the children. As you roll it, say, "Amy! I am so glad you are here today! Jesus loves you, and we do, too!" Amy catches the ball and rolls it back to you. Other toddlers may be standing nearby. To give them something to do, have everybody clap for Amy. Then repeat with one of the other children. Be sure to see that everyone who wants to play gets a turn and a clap.

A VARIATION

The ball game may be repeated another time using other phrases and sentences.

STUFFED ANIMALS

Let the teddy bear picture lead to this activity. At this age, toddlers don't know about sharing and taking turns. Make a game of it. Start with one teddy bear. "I want to share my teddy bear with you." Hand it to a child. "Your turn." Then hold out your hand. "My turn." Hand it to another child. "Adam's turn." Ask him to hand it to another child. "Bethany's turn."

After having fun handing it back and forth for awhile, set out a large laundry basket full of stuffed toys. "Everybody's turn!"

A HIDING AND FINDING GAME

Look at pictures of toys. Put a real toy on a cookie sheet and cover it with a small baby blanket. "Where is the doll?" Take the blanket away. "Peek-a-boo! Here it is!" This helps the children learn that even when things are out of sight, they are still there.

VARIATIONS

Let a child put the blanket over his or her head. (This can be scary, so don't force anyone to do this). "Where is Elizabeth?" Out she comes. "Peek-a-boo!" If the children have never played this game before, you may need to demonstrate first.

LOOKING AT BOOKS

Use the book picture to spark interest in this activity. Board and cloth books with colorful pictures are best for this age. Put several in a box. Spread out a small rug to define your game area and give the children a place for sitting. Give each one a book and have a book-looking time.

PLAYING WITH BLOCKS

The picture card shows a picture block. Bring out your box of *Picture Blocks*. As the children play with the blocks, talk about the pictures. Other large blocks which are suitable for toddlers may also be introduced at this time. Have fun playing with them. Talk about what you are doing. "Jesus loves you and he loves your friends. He wants you to love your friends, too. We are playing together. We have fun with friends."