

The Rhythm of Sunday School:
Sample Lesson Structure
2nd Floor Preschool Wing

During the week:

- Monday Contact children by phone or note if you know anything going on in their lives that needs celebration or comfort (dance recital, big game, new baby, death of a pet, or illness in the family...)
- Tuesday Read your scripture lesson. Study the passage for your own understanding and faith development.
- Wednesday Read over your lesson and plan for materials. Contact Betty by Wednesday with any supplies you might need. (They will be waiting for you in your room.)
- Thursday Using a written list, pray for the children in your classroom.
- Friday Think about how the children in your room will receive the lesson. Visualize your plans.

Sunday Morning:

- 9:00 Arrive in your classroom and check to make sure you have all your materials.
- 9:10 Join other church school volunteers and staff for prayer on the second floor at the crossroads.

It is good for children to move from active to quiet activities, from whole group to individual and small group activities, from table to floor, from listening to doing. Transitions can be difficult, so keeping routines predictable can provide a sense of security and independence. It is also important to let children know when a transition is coming.

9:20 – Greeting Time: Assistant greets children by name at the door, mark children present, and check to make sure they have a security sticker. The teacher engages children in “sponge” activities. These are activities that the child can quickly become engaged in and play alongside others.

9:40 – Lesson Time: Call children together for the lesson. It may be helpful to have a song you always sing at this time and an expectation for how the children sit during this time. This time varies in length by the development of the group.

Gathering Time: (see attached litanies)

- We light the candle (electric)
- We bless our offerings

Hearing the Story

Present the story/lesson. This time may include puppets, flannel board, a story Bible, songs.

Instructions for Response

Tell children that we will be moving to the tables for an activity.

Benediction

Say to the children, “Our story time is over.”

And they will respond, “We take the light of God’s love in our hearts.”

Then blow out the candle.

9:50 – Response Time Children respond to the lesson with an activity at the tables.

10:00 – Independent Play Children are released for independent play. This time should be planned for too. Children may think about the story as they build with blocks, play in housekeeping... Give children a warning a few minutes before clean up time.

10:15 – Clean Up Time Have children clean up their areas before coming to snack.

10:20 – Snack Time Gather children for snack time. Let children help you pass out snacks and ask children to clean up after themselves. Say a short grace. This is a good time to talk with children about the many things they may be thankful for.

10:25 – Limited Play Time Teachers may plan for a few limited activities to be available as parents arrive – puzzles, coloring, stories.

10:30 - Departure As parents pick up children, the assistant should be at the door to greet parents and say good-bye to children. A special blessing may be given to each child at this time. Please check for stickers. The teacher should continue to engage the children in activity until their parents arrive.

Helpful Ideas:

Mark cubbies for children to take their work home or write their name on a clip they can attach their work to; parents can leave the clip and take the work.