

WEE Learn

Curriculum Guide for Infants and Toddlers



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Curriculum Guide
for Infants and Toddlers,
Revised

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We believe that the Bible has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter; and that all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. The 2000 statement of The Baptist Faith and Message is our doctrinal guideline.

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Unit Seventeen
OVERVIEW

God Gives Us Day and Night

Purpose

To help infants and toddlers explore day and night. Infants and toddlers will have opportunities to experience daytime and nighttime activities and to hear that God made the sun, moon, and stars.

Planning Checklist

- Look for pictures of day and night in magazines and calendars. Cut out or trim, laminate, and use them throughout the unit.
- Find a safe place to take toddlers for a daytime walk and infants for a ride in strollers.
- Plan “Pajama Day.” Post a sign on the classroom door asking parents to dress their children in pajamas on a certain day of the week. Ask parents to send outdoor shoes if the child will be wearing house shoes. Teachers must wear appropriate pajamas on this special day, too! Go on a pajama parade in your building. Read bedtime stories and have a bedtime snack. Make the day special for toddlers. Sing bedtime lullabies to infants and read bedtime stories as you rock each baby.

Bible Emphasis

God Made Day and Night
(Genesis 1:3-5, 14-19)



Learning Activities

Infants (Birth - 8 Months)*

Younger Toddlers (9 - 16 Months)**

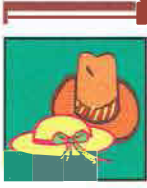
Older Toddlers (17 - 24 Months)***

Art



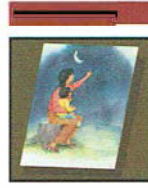
Yellow Paint**
 Coloring**
 Magazine Pictures**
 Do-a-Dot Markers**
 Squishy Bags**
 Chalk Coloring***
 Star Stickers***
 Shaving Cream***
 Tissue Collage***

Homeliving



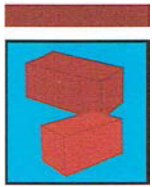
Sunglasses and Hats**
 Babies to Bed**
 Bath Time**
 Setting the Stage***
 Bedtime Fun***
 Going for a Walk***
 Good Morning***

Pictures



Cereal Box Pictures*
 God Made the Moon and Stars*
 Photo Album*

Blocks



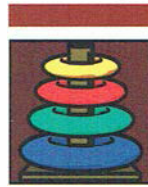
Colored Blocks**
 Family Figures**
 Boats**
 Train Set***
 Workers at Night***

Motor Development



Reaching for the Stars*
 Sitting Up*
 Where's the Sound?*

Puzzles / Manipulatives



Pom-Pom Balls**
 Sticky Stars**
 Starbuilders**
 Day or Night***
 Matching Stars***
 Pillowcase Pull***
 Play Dough***
 What Size Is the Moon?***

Books



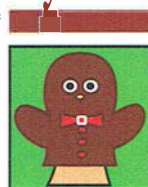
Night and Day Books*
 Blanket Books*
 God Made Day and Night*
 Tent Reading**
 God Made Day and Night**
 Bedtime Reading**
 God Made Day and Night***
 Goodnight Moon***
 Night Reading***
 Pillowcase Books***

Music



Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*
 Pie Tin Drums*
 Music in Bed*
 Bubbles**
 God Is So Good**
 It's a Beautiful Day**
 I See the Moon**
 Lullabies***
 Star***
 Piano***

Toys



Star, Moon, and Sun
 Mobiles*
 Starbuilders Mobile*
 Shape Sorters*
 Balls*
 Food and Dishes*

Nature



Seashells*
 Flashlights*
 Window Watching*
 Sounds*
 Star Bottle**
 Day Walk**
 Pillowcase**
 Sand Touching**
 Water Play**
 Daylight Walk***
 Shadow Walk***
 Flashlights***
 Telescopes***
 Owls***
 Plant***

God Gives Us Day and Night

Concepts to Be Emphasized

- God made the moon, stars, and sun.
- The sun shines in the day.
- The moon and stars shine at night.
- I can get ready for bed.
- Some people work in the day.
- Some people work at night.

Guidance Tips

Infants and toddlers touch toys, books, and pictures and immediately put the objects in their mouths. Be attentive to all children at all times. Safety proof the classroom for objects babies can swallow.

Some toddlers are afraid of the dark. Be sensitive to this fear. Talk about the dark with young toddlers. Say: "God made the moon to shine at night. The moon helps us to see." Assure toddlers that God is with us at all times.

Greeting the Children

As children enter the room sing "You Are My Sunshine." For the last two lines, use the child's name:

You'll never know (Child's Name) how much I love you.

I'm so glad (Child's Name) is here today.

Have flashlights available and ready for busy toddlers to begin a day of fun!

Bible Phrases

"God made the moon" (Gen. 1:16).

"God made the sun" (Gen. 1:16).

"God made the stars" (Gen. 1:16).

"God made the sun to shine in the day" (Jer. 31:35).

"God made the moon and stars to shine in the night" (Jer. 31:35).

Bible Emphasis for Teachers

God Made Day and Night

(Based on Genesis 1:3-5, 14-19; Psalm 104:19-23)

Long, long ago, the world was dark. God said, "Let there be light." And God made daytime. God made the bright, warm sun. The sun shines in the daytime. The sun helps plants and trees grow. The sun helps people stay warm. In the daytime people go to work and children play.

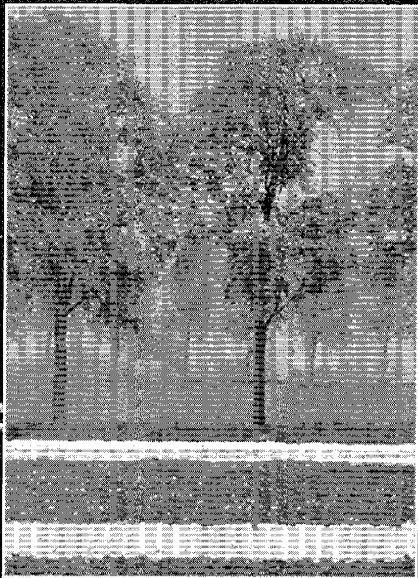
God made the nighttime, too. He made the bright moon and twinkling stars. The moon and stars shine in the sky at night. At nighttime some animals walk around to find food. God made them this way. When the sun comes up and it is morning, these animals go to their homes to rest. Some people work in the nighttime.

God made the daytime and the nighttime. God was happy that He made day and night. He knew it was good.

Thank You, God, for daytime and nighttime.

Bible Story Conversation

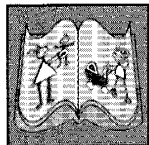
- Long ago the world was dark.
- God made the light.
- God made the sun.
- The sun helps plants and trees grow.
- God made the night.
- God made the moon and stars.
- God was happy.
- He knew that day and night were good.



Learning Activities

Infants (Birth - 8 Months)

Infants explore toys, books, and pictures with their hands and mouths. A baby will hold a toy and immediately attempt to place the toy in his mouth. When Bart sucks on a teething ring and drops it on the floor, pick it up, rinse with water, and place it in a tub of bleach water. After the toy soaks for ten minutes, place the teething ring on a towel to air-dry. Teachers of infants are busy. Make this habit a part of your daily routine. Before babies arrive, place a tub of bleach water and towel on a cabinet out of the reach of babies. While walking to the refrigerator to get a bottle, rinse and place a chewed toy in the water. After feeding the baby and rinsing the bottle, set the toy on the towel to dry. Be aware of contaminated toys and remove from the reach of other children immediately. This helps prevent the spread of infection or disease.



Books

Night and Day Books

Prepare Ahead: Glue a picture of a star, a moon, and a sleeping baby on separate pieces of six-by-eight-inch paper. Print a one-word description of each picture at the bottom of the page. Laminate or cover the paper with clear adhesive. Punch two holes in each page. Tie a piece of yarn or string through the holes to make a book.

Hold five-month-old Michael on your lap; hold the book in front of him. Show him the star and help him touch the picture. Say: "Star. Michael sees stars at night. God made the stars." Sing "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." Continue looking at the pictures with Michael. Name each picture. Help Michael touch the pages. Make a "day book" the same way using pictures of the sun, clouds, and a baby playing.

Blanket Books

Lay a soft blanket on the floor. Place small, firm pillows on the blanket. Stand sturdy, board books beside the pillows on the blanket. Encourage six-month-old Jessica to crawl to the books and snuggle up on a pillow. Read a board book to her. Say, "Thank You, God, for books."

God Made Day and Night

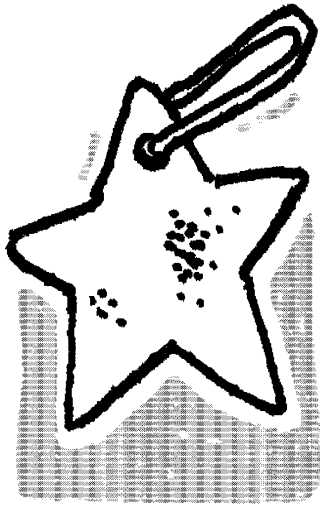
Lay the teaching picture "God Made the Moon and Stars" on the floor. When Alicia notices the picture, use the Bible Story Conversation sentences. Say, "God made the moon." Hold the Bible on your lap. Continue to tell her about God creating day and night. Thank God for the sun and the moon.



Motor Development

Reaching for the Stars

Prepare Ahead: Trace a star on the bottom half of a piece of yellow felt. Fold the felt in half to cut out two stars. Hot glue the edges of the stars together leaving a small opening. Stuff the felt with cotton or put a small bell inside the star. Hot glue the opening closed. Punch a hole in the top of the star. Thread a piece of yarn through the hole. Hold the star six inches above five-month-old Jacob's face while he is lying on his



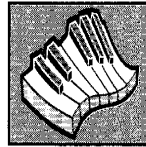
back. Encourage Jacob to reach for the star. When his fingers touch the star, say: "Yea, Jacob. You touched the star." Lower the star close to his fingers so he can grasp the star. Gently shake the star so that Jacob can hear the bell. Say: "God made the stars. Thank You, God, for Jacob. Thank You, God, for stars."

Sitting Up

Prepare Ahead: Between the ages of five and six months, infants show an interest in sitting up. Be aware of babies who want to sit up and play but cannot hold themselves in a sitting position. Help infants develop a feel for sitting alone and develop balance by making sit-up boxes. Cover an empty, wipe box with colorful adhesive paper or glue pictures on the box and cover with clear adhesive. Place five-month-old Alicia on the floor. Place the wipe box between her legs. The box will help her keep her balance. Place your hand gently on her back. When she leans to one side, pull her back to a sitting position. She will begin to feel herself leaning or falling and will learn to pull herself back up.

Where's the Sound?

Seven- and eight-month-old babies who are sitting and crawling will enjoy finding sounds in the room. Hide a beeping alarm clock, a playing tape recorder, or a musical watch under a bed, pillow, or toy in the room. Ask: "Where is it? What do you hear?" Encourage crawling babies to find the sound.



Music

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

While changing each baby's diaper, sing "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." Hand the baby a plastic or cloth star to hold while you sing. Say, "God made the stars." Sing "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" while rocking, feeding, and playing with infants.

Pie Tin Drums

Set three pie tins on the floor. Place three, paper-towel tubes beside the pie tins. Play a cassette tape or compact disc. Show eight-month-old Jonathon how to tap the pie tin with his towel tube. Hold six-month-old Desiree on your lap with a tin. Help her tap the tin with her hand. Sing and play to the music together. Smile and say, "Thank You, God, for music."

For variation, sing (tune: "She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain"):

I play music on my drum, yes I can.

I play music on my drum, yes I can.

I play music on my drum.

I play music on my drum.

I play music on my drum, yes I can.

Substitute babies' names as they play with the pans. Say: "Desiree plays her drum. Thank You, God, for Desiree." For variation, fill a tin with beans, macaroni, or paper clips. Securely tape another pie tin on top of the full one. As toddlers pat the tins, they will rattle. Ask, "What do you hear?" Say, "Thank You, God, for ears to hear." Encourage older toddlers to also shake the tins.

Music in Bed

Turn the lights off in the classroom. Lay babies in their cribs when they are fed and happy. Hang a star or moon mobile over each crib. Play a quiet tape, such as *Seagulls*. Walk over to each baby and gently touch him on the back. Talk quietly to each infant. Say: "I love you, Charley. It's fun to listen to music. Thank You, God, for ears to hear." On another day, sing or hum soft lullabies to the babies. Suggested lullabies are "Hush, Little Baby, Don't Say A Word" or "Rock-a-Bye, Baby."



Nature

Seashells

Place a large seashell on the floor on a blanket. Lay Teddy on the blanket. Show him the shell. Say: "Teddy sees a shell. God made seashells." Hold a young infant on your lap and set the shell on her legs. Help her touch the shell. Say: "Katie touches the seashell. Thank You, God, for Katie's hands."

Flashlights (Use only in rooms with some natural light.)

While babies are awake and playing on the floor, turn the lights off. Turn on a flashlight and shine it on the floor in front of Shannon. Say: "I see the light. Where is the light?" Shannon will reach for the light. Tell her, "God made the light." Shine the light on the tray of the swing while Steve is swinging. Encourage him to reach for the light. Use the flashlight at the diaper-changing table. Shine the light on the ceiling while changing a diaper. Say: "Steve sees the light. Thank You, God, for light."

Window Watching

Take turns moving each crib near a window. A baby will enjoy lying in the sunshine and watching the action outside. Say: "Dalton sees the sun. God made the sun. Thank You, God, for Dalton. Thank You, God, for the sun." If there is not a window in the classroom, take babies to a glass door to enjoy the sunshine.

Sounds

Prepare Ahead: Record sounds a baby might hear in the daytime such as singing birds, barking dogs, talking people, honking cars. Play the cassette tape. Say: "What do you hear, Jeff? I hear a bird singing. Thank You, God, for birds."



Pictures

Cereal Box Pictures

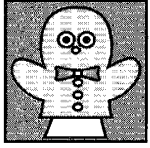
Prepare Ahead: Wrap a large, empty cereal box in white paper and another cereal box of equal size in dark blue paper. Draw or cut out pictures to glue on the front and back of each box. For the white box choose a sun, a flower, a bird, or a cloud. On the blue box, use a moon and a star. Cover the boxes with clear contact plastic. Stand the boxes in Leandra's crib. When she looks at the pictures, walk over to her crib. Say: "I see the sun. Leandra sees the sun. God made the sun." Older babies will enjoy holding and stacking the boxes. For variation, place bells or macaroni noodles inside the box.

God Made the Moon and Stars

Laminate or cover with clear adhesive the teaching picture "God Made the Moon and Stars." Stand the teaching picture beside the diaper-changing table. Show the picture to Patrick before changing his diaper. Say: "God made the moon and the stars. We see the stars at night." Sing "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" as he looks at the picture.

Photo Album

Prepare Ahead: Ask parents to bring pictures of babies getting ready for bed. Place each picture inside a photo album. Write the child's name under his or her picture. Lay the album on a blanket on the floor. Crawling babies can crawl to the album to examine it. Talk to the children about the pictures. Say: "Monica is getting ready to go to bed. Night-night, Monica."



Toys

Star, Moon, and Sun Mobiles

⇒ *Prepare Ahead:* Cut four stars from cardboard or poster board. Cover the stars with foil or gold wrapping paper. Laminate or cover the stars with clear adhesive. Tape a piece of yarn to the back of each star. Tie each piece of yarn securely to an embroidery loom, paper plate, or hanger. Hang the mobile over Austin's crib. Encourage him to reach for the stars as he plays on his back. Rotate the mobile from crib to crib. Say: "Austin sees the stars. God made the stars." Make sun-and-moon mobiles by cutting sun and moon shapes from poster board.

Starbuilders Mobile

Starbuilders are brightly colored, plastic, star-shaped manipulatives that can be pushed and pulled together. Use Starbuilders during the unit in a variety of ways. Tie four Starbuilders to a plastic coat hanger with yarn. Attach the hanger from the ceiling at an adult's eye level. Hold each baby near the mobile. Encourage Brenda to reach for the stars. Say: "Get it, Brenda. You can touch the star." Praise her for her efforts.

Hand four-month-old Joshua a Starbuilder while changing his diaper. Joshua will chew and play with the toy.

Shape Sorters

⇒ *Prepare Ahead:* Shape sorters can be purchased from a variety of toy stores. Make your own shape sorter by gathering balls or other plastic shapes and clean, empty coffee cans. Cookie cutters are good to use for shape objects. Cut the shape of one object in a coffee can lid. Set the can and the object on the floor. Seven-month-old Donesha can sit and put the shape into the can.

Make several cans with different shapes. Cover the cans with colorful contact paper.

Balls

Balls of all sizes are wonderful for babies. Soft, small balls are easy for four-month-old Juan to hold while lying on his back. Medium-sized plastic balls are fun for crawling babies to chase around the room. Babies who are sitting up can enjoy putting racquetballs or golf balls in cans and baskets. Put a collection of balls on the floor for babies to enjoy. Take a small ball to the diaper-changing table. Give the ball to five-month-old Sherry while changing her diaper. Say: "Sherry holds the ball. Thank you, God, for Sherry."

Food and Dishes

Set a variety of plastic food on the floor on a blanket. Place plastic bowls, cups, and spoons beside the food. Hold three-month-old Joe on your lap. Show him a plastic apple. Say: "God made apples. Yum, yum. Apples are for eating. Thank You, God, for apples." Seven-month-old Nancy may sit on the floor and place the food in bowls and pretend to eat. Say: "Nancy is eating breakfast. We eat breakfast in the morning. May I have some food to eat?" Play on the floor with Nancy. Pretend to eat the food. While changing Dennis' diaper, hand him a plastic banana. Say: "Banana. Dennis holds a banana. Thank You, God, for bananas."

Unit Evaluation

- Did babies learn that God made the sun, moon, and stars?
- Did babies learn about daytime and nighttime experiences?
- Did all babies get to be outside regularly?
- Did babies hear music and happy sounds in the room?
- Have you connected well with parents during this unit?

Learning Activities

Younger Toddlers (9 - 16 Months)

After changing each toddler's diaper, gently wash his or her face and hands with a wipe cloth. Use the child's own wipes so that allergic reactions will not occur. Gently clean under necks and around faces. This gives children a fresh smell and a clean feeling.



Art

Yellow Paint

Pour a thin layer of yellow paint into a paper plate. Add one tablespoon of liquid soap to the paint. Cover a toddler-sized table with a large piece of butcher paper. Write "God made the sun" across the top of the paper. Place small, chubby, roller brushes on the table. Toddlers can roll the brushes in the paint and over the butcher paper. For variation, place a piece of paper on a high chair tray. Let toddlers paint with the roller brushes while sitting in a high chair.

Coloring

Place yellow, orange, and red jumbo crayons on a large piece of butcher paper on the floor or on a toddler-sized table. Write "God made the sun" at the top of the butcher paper. Encourage toddlers to make marks or draw on the paper. For variation, color on paper plates or paper at the easel.

Magazine Pictures

Prepare Ahead: Cut daytime and nighttime pictures from magazines. Lay the pictures on a toddler-sized table or on the floor on a large piece of butcher paper. Set glue sticks and paper beside the pictures. Younger toddlers may color with the glue sticks and press the pictures in the glue. Write on the top of each child's paper "God made day and night." Talk with the children as they work. Say: "I see a girl swinging in the sun. I see a boy sleeping at night. What do you see?" Small children may not be able to tell you what they see, but they will point and make sounds. Encourage each toddler to use his communication skills. If the children have trouble using glue sticks, lay a piece of clear contact plastic on the floor with the sticky side facing out. The children may prefer sticking the pictures on the plastic.

Do-A-Dot Markers

Cover a toddler-sized table with butcher paper or newspaper. Set individual sheets of paper and Do-A-Dot markers on the table. Let toddlers press or spread the markers on the paper.

Squishy Bags

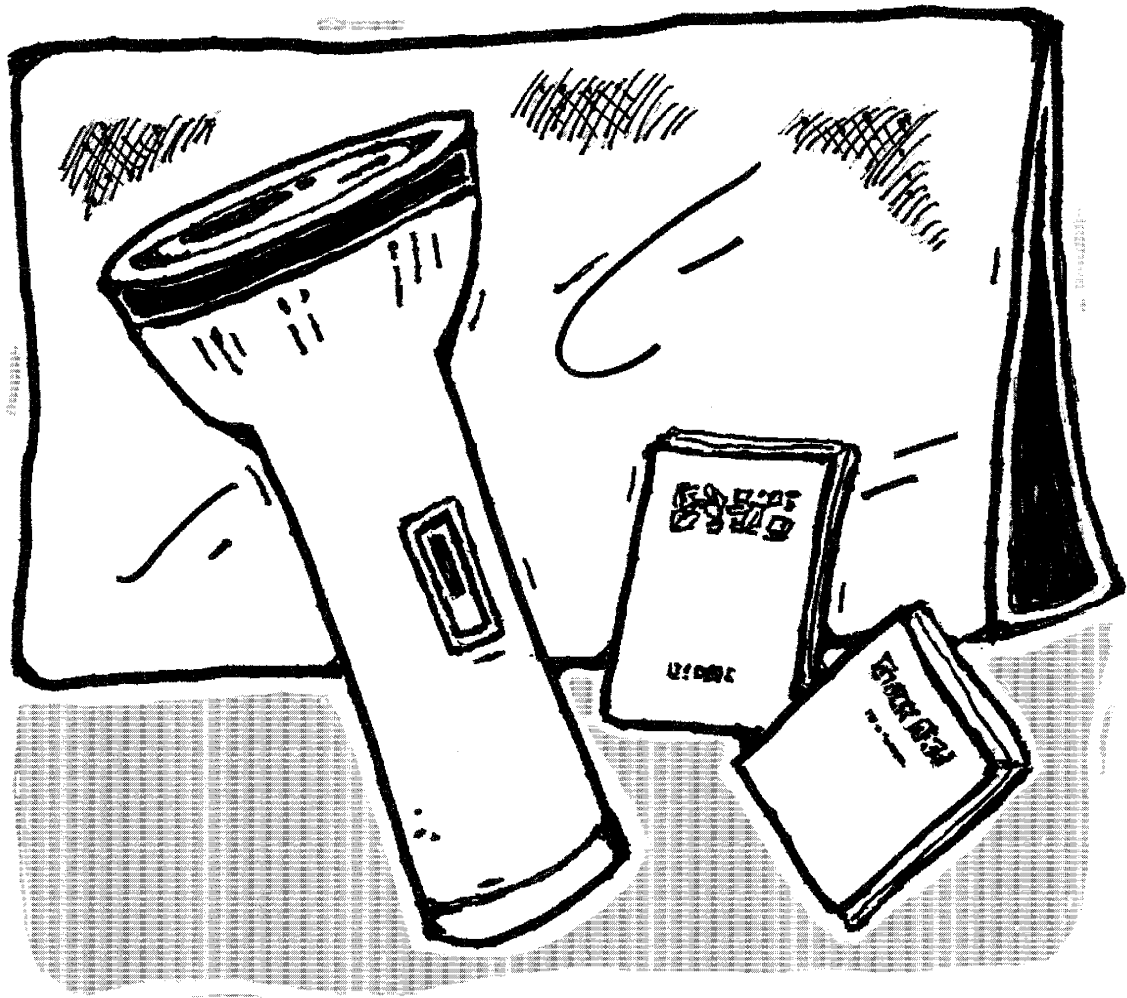
Inside two, plastic, resealable bags put one teaspoon of red paint and one teaspoon of yellow paint. Inside two other plastic bags put one teaspoon of yellow and one teaspoon of green paint. Seal the bags and tape securely. Set the bags on a toddler-sized table or high chair. Toddlers will see the two colors combine as they squish the bags. Some children will draw on the bags with their fingers, while other children will squeeze the bags. Allow children the opportunity to experiment with the colors.



Books

Tent Reading

Hang a blanket or sheet over chairs or a table to create a tent in the Book Area. Stand flashlights in the tent. Young toddlers will enjoy experimenting with the flashlights. Lay board books beside the flashlights. Crawl in the tent with the young toddlers and read to them as they play. Say: "God made the night. Thank You, God, for night."

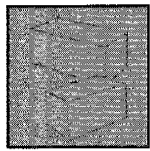


God Made Day and Night

Prepare Ahead: In the Book Area stick strips of masking tape to the floor to form the shape of a star. Cut small stars from yellow construction paper. Write each of the Bible Story Conversation sentences on a star. Laminate or cover each star with clear adhesive. Lay the paper stars on the floor inside the star shape taped to the floor. As children pick up a star, read the sentence to them. Show the teaching picture “God Made the Moon and Stars.” Talk with children about the stars.

Bedtime Reading

Place a crib mattress on the floor in the Book Area. Lay pillows and a blanket on the pretend bed. Encourage toddlers to climb on the bed and play. Sit on the mattress with the children. Read to them as they crawl on the bed. Play peek-a-boo under the blanket.



Blocks

Colored Blocks

Set a tub of colored wooden blocks in the Block Area with the Blockbusters. Toddlers may explore stacking the two sizes of blocks together. Say: “Rebecca is working with the blocks. I like the way you are building.” Trace several blocks on a piece of white paper, one for each color of blocks in the tub. Color each block shape in a different color to match the blocks. Laminate the paper or cover with clear adhesive. Lay the paper on the floor in the Block Area. Help toddlers match the blocks to the colored block shapes.

Family Figures

Families are together in the daytime and nighttime. In the Block Area, stand the teaching picture “Enjoying God’s World.” Say, “The family is working together in the daytime. I am glad God made families. We can help our family in the daytime and at night.” Place wooden or plastic family figures on the floor in the Block Area. Encourage toddlers to build a home for the family.

Boats

Make a large circle on the floor with a piece of masking tape. Place a variety of wooden or plastic boats inside the circle. Say: “Some boats sail at night. Some boats sail in the daytime. God made night and day.” Provide wooden or plastic figures for toddlers to use with the boats. For variation, place the boats in a shallow pan of water. Set the pan of water on a large towel or shower curtain on the floor in the Block Area. Toddlers may float the boats in the water. Push sleeves up and have the toddlers wear smocks.



Homeliving

Sunglasses and Hats

Toddlers love to wear sunglasses and hats. Place a variety of hats and sunglasses on a table in the Homeliving Area. Provide a mirror nearby for toddlers to view themselves all dressed up. Say: “God made the sun to shine in the day. We wear hats and sunglasses. Thank You, God, for the sun.” Sing “You Are My Sunshine” as children play.

Babies to Bed

Gather three doll beds and a variety of dolls. Dress dolls in pajamas before children arrive. Lay blankets and baby dolls in the doll beds. Say: "Our babies are ready for bed. Who can love the babies? I think the baby needs a bottle before he goes to bed. Who can feed the baby?" Help young toddlers hold and pretend to feed the babies. Say, "Thank You, God, for hands to help."

Bath Time

Many toddlers take baths at night before going to bed. Provide the opportunity for the children to bathe the dolls before bedtime. Put a small amount of water in a baby bathtub or dish tub. Set the tub on a large towel on the floor in the Homeliving Area. Place baby towels, wash clothes, and soap beside the tub. Place baby pajamas near the bath. When toddlers have finished bathing their babies, help them dress the babies for bed. Say: "God made the moon to shine at night. Thank You, God, for nighttime."



Music

Bubbles

Play a cassette tape or compact disc such as *'Specially Special Songs* or *Rise and Shine*. Blow bubbles while the music is playing. Encourage toddlers to catch, pop, or chase the bubbles. Dance and sing to the music as you play with the bubbles. Say: "Thank You, God, for ears to hear. Thank You, God, for bubbles."

God Is So Good

Sing "God Is So Good" with the children while sitting on the floor in the Music Area. Show them the teaching picture "God Made the Moon and Stars" and sing:

He made the moon.

He made the moon.

He made the moon.

He's so good to me.

Sing other stanzas:

He made the sun.

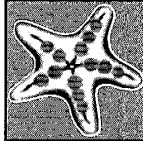
He made the stars.

He made the day.

He made the night.

It's a Beautiful Day

Play the song "It's A Beautiful Day" from the compact disc *'Specially Special Songs*. Place a tub of rattles on the floor in the Music Area. Encourage toddlers to shake their rattles while the music is playing. Sing and move to the music with the active toddlers. Say, "Thank You, God, for a beautiful day."



Nature

Star Bottle

➡*Prepare Ahead:* Fill a ten-ounce bottle half full of corn syrup. Fill the other half of the bottle with water. Squeeze enough drops of blue food coloring into the bottle to make the liquid blue. Shake gold or silver glitter into the bottle. Screw the lid onto the bottle and secure with hot glue. Toddlers will enjoy shaking the bottle and watching the glitter "stars" move slowly up and down in the bottle.

Day Walk

Take young toddlers outside for a walk around the building. Provide strollers for toddlers who are not yet walking. Ask for a parent volunteer to come and assist you. Give each child a small, empty sack to carry. Encourage the children to pick up objects of interest and place in their bags. As you are walking, say: "It is a cloudy day. God made the clouds. Sometimes the clouds cover up the sun. Thank You, God, for clouds." Sing "God Is So Good" while the children are busy exploring and looking. Be sure to provide plenty of supervision and a safe area.

Pillowcase

Place bedtime objects such as a toothbrush, house shoes, pajamas, teddy bear, small pillow, and blanket in a pillowcase. Place the pillowcase in the Nature Area. Ask Bethany, "What is in the pillowcase?" Encourage her to reach in and feel an object. Say, "What do you feel?" She will pull out an object. Ask, "Do you know what it is?" Say: "Toothbrush. We brush our teeth." Encourage Bethany to say the word *toothbrush*. Continue the game until all of the objects are found. Bethany may prefer to dump all of the bedtime items out of the pillowcase at one time. Help her name the objects she dumps onto the floor. Say, "Thank You, God, for hands to touch."

Sand Touching

Stand the teaching picture "I Love My Family" in the Nature Area. Pour a small amount of sand into a dish tub. When you are able to sit with young toddlers in the Nature Area, place the tub on the floor on a shower curtain or large piece of butcher paper. Toddlers may want to put sand in their mouths. Watch carefully and say, "Sand is for digging." Encourage toddlers to scoop the sand with spoons or detergent scoops. Say: "People go to the beach in the daytime. People play outside in the sand during the day. I'm glad God made the sun to shine in the daytime." Show the teaching picture to the toddlers. Say: "I see children digging in the sand. Thank You, God, for hands to dig."

Water Play

Bring water into your classroom at least once each week. Young toddlers love to play with water. Some toddlers will try to drink the water. Say: "This water is only for touching. We drink from cups or bottles." Put a small amount of water in a dish tub. Set the tub on a large towel on the floor in the Nature Area. Toddlers may try to stand or sit in the water. Be prepared for lots of fun! Stand the teaching picture "God Made Water" beside the tub. Say: "God made the water. Thank You, God, for water."



Puzzles / Manipulatives

Pom-Pom Balls

Fill several cups with a variety of large, colored, pom-pom balls. Toddlers can play a game of dump-and-fill with the balls. Place several cups on the floor and watch toddlers as they explore pouring the balls on the floor and into the cups. Encourage toddlers to put the balls into the cups. This is a good way for young toddlers to develop fine motor skills as they grasp the balls and put them into the cups. Say, "Thank You, God, for hands to play."

Sticky Stars

➡ *Prepare Ahead:* Cut pairs of different sized stars from yellow construction paper. Cover one set (including all sizes) of the stars with clear adhesive or laminate. Glue the other set of stars to a piece of black poster board. Cover the poster board with clear adhesive. Stick a small piece of Velcro® on each star glued to the board and place a matching piece of Velcro® on the back of the laminated stars. Stick the stars to the board. Lay the board on the floor in the Manipulative Area. Young toddlers may pull the stars from the board and then replace them. Sing "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" or "Everything Was Made by God." Say: "God made stars. Thank You, God, for stars."

Starbuilders

Set a tub of Starbuilders on the floor in the Manipulative Area. Toddlers play a game of dump-and-fill as they dump the manipulatives onto the floor and refill the tub. Older toddlers will enjoy building with the Starbuilders, while younger toddlers may hold and chew on the toys. Be available to assist toddlers who need help pushing the manipulatives together.

Unit Evaluation

- Are toddlers less hesitant to try new activities?
- Were the words *daytime* and *nighttime* used often in conversation?
- Did you encourage parents to help their toddlers look for the moon?

Learning Activities

Older Toddlers (17 - 24 Months)

Teach older toddlers to wash their hands. Place a step stool at the sink if the children have difficulty reaching the water. Toddlers should be able to hold both hands under the water while it is running. Show children how to pump the soap from the dispenser and rub their hands together. Encourage toddlers to use the soap to make bubbles or turn their hands white. Sing, "Row, Row Your Boat" while each child takes a turn washing. The song lasts a good length of time for hand washing. Place paper towels and trash can within the toddlers' reach. Be sure toddlers wash hands before and after eating, after diaper changes or using the toilet, and after coming in from outdoor play.



Art

Chalk Coloring

Place black paper on a toddler-sized table. When Justin shows an interest in the paper, place two pieces of jumbo sidewalk chalk on the table. While Justin colors on the paper with the chalk, say: "God made the night. It is dark at night, and your paper is dark." Watch Justin closely. He may attempt to put the chalk in his mouth. Gently remind Justin that chalk is for coloring.

Star Stickers

Purchase a variety of star stickers or cut stars from brightly-colored paper. Provide a sheet of dark-colored paper (navy blue or black) for each child. Encourage toddlers to stick the stars onto their sheet of dark paper. In white or gold ink, write "God made the stars" at the top of each child's paper.

Shaving Cream

Place several trays on a toddler-sized table. Squirt a small amount of shaving cream on each tray. Encourage toddlers to touch the cream. Watch carefully so toddlers do not put shaving cream in mouths or eyes. Provide damp towels and a dry cloth to clean sticky hands.

Tissue Collage

Prepare Ahead: At the top of each child's paper, write "God made the sun to shine in the daytime." Tear orange, yellow, and blue tissue paper into small pieces and place the paper pieces in a pie tin on a toddler-sized table. Set glue sticks beside the paper. Encourage toddlers to color on the paper with the glue sticks and place the tissue paper in the glue. Say, "God made the sun. The sun is bright." On another day, write "God made the moon to shine at night." Place torn pieces of black, white, and yellow tissue paper and glue sticks on a toddler-sized table. Ask Danny as he glues the tissue to his paper, "What do you do at night?"



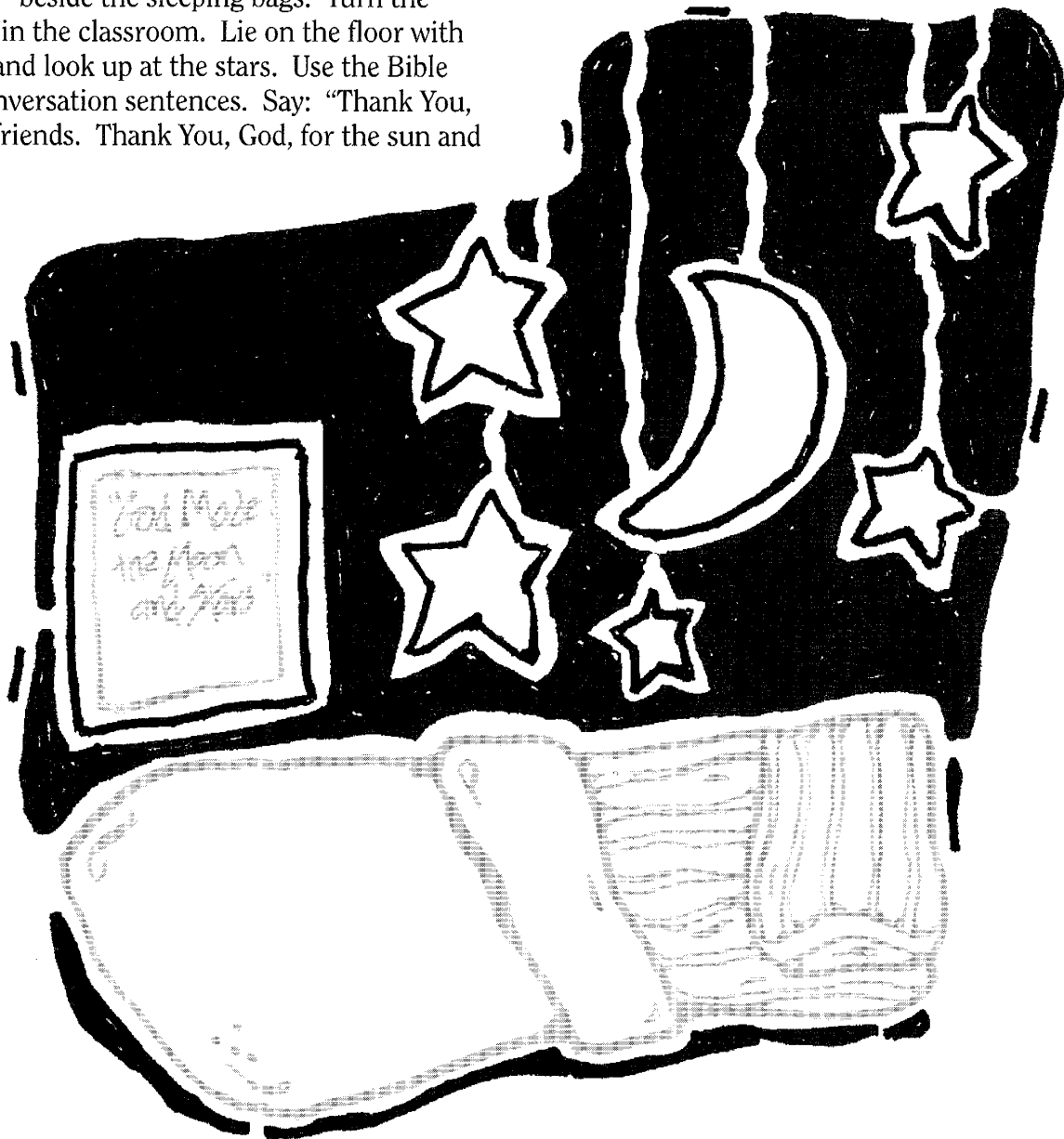
Books

God Made Day and Night

➡ *Prepare Ahead:* Hang paper stars and a paper moon from the ceiling with yarn. Lay sleeping bags on the floor in the Book Area. Stand the teaching picture “God Made the Moon and Stars” beside the sleeping bags. Turn the lights off in the classroom. Lie on the floor with toddlers and look up at the stars. Use the Bible Story Conversation sentences. Say: “Thank You, God, for friends. Thank You, God, for the sun and moon.”

Goodnight Moon

➡ *Prepare Ahead:* Place the board book *Good Night Moon* in the Book Area. Sit on the floor and read the story to older toddlers. Encourage the children to point to the pictures of the objects in the story. Draw and cut out the goodnight objects mentioned in the book. Hang the objects around the room. Ask Pete if he can find a clock in the room. Walk around the room with him and look for the objects.



Night Reading

Place a large, appliance box in a corner of the Book Area. Cut a door in one side, large enough to allow a teacher or child to go inside. Hang stars from the top of the box or stick glow-in-the-dark stars inside the box. Place flashlights and several age-appropriate books in the box. Encourage toddlers to look at the books with the flashlights.

Pillowcase Books

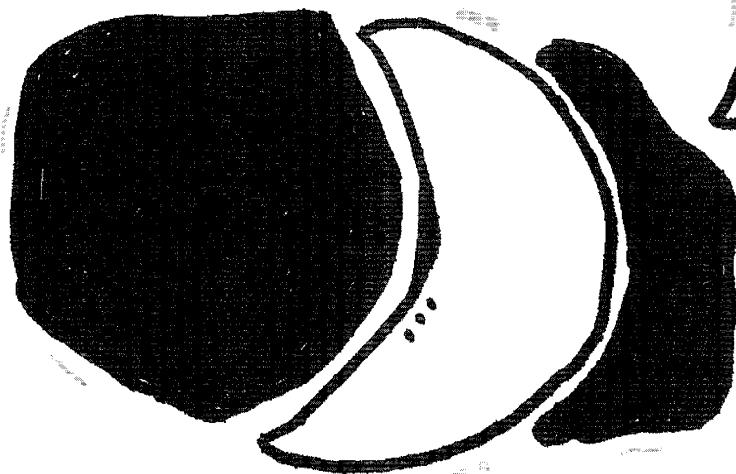
Hide books inside several pillowcases. Lay the pillowcases on the floor in the Book Area. Say: "Jennifer, where is a book? I want to read a book, but I can't find one." Clap for Jennifer when she finds a book. Hold Jennifer on your lap and read the book together.



Blocks

Train Set

Place plastic or wooden trains on the floor in the Block Area. If a track is available, have the track set up when the children arrive, or make a track on the floor with masking tape by sticking two parallel pieces of tape on the floor. Girls and boys will enjoy driving the trains along the tracks. Say, "Trains run along the track in the day and at night." Provide wooden or plastic family figures for children to use as passengers and train engineers.



Workers at Night

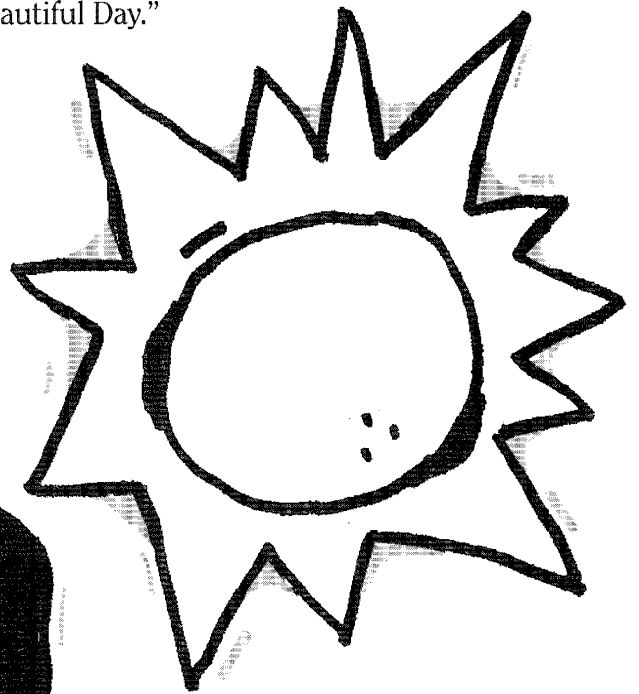
Gather a collection of cars and trucks that are used by people who work at night. Include fire trucks, police cars, ambulances, or snowplows. As toddlers push the fire trucks, say: "Firemen work at night. Thank You, God, for firemen." Talk to curious toddlers about what fire, police, and medical workers must do when they are needed at night.



Homeliving

Setting the Stage

Cut a large sun from yellow or orange paper and a large moon from white paper. Laminate both of them. When the Homeliving Area is set up for daytime activities, hang the sun from the ceiling over the area where children will be playing. When children are participating in nighttime activities, hang the moon over the Homeliving Area. Hang them low enough for toddlers to see and notice. Sing "It's a Beautiful Day."



Bedtime Fun

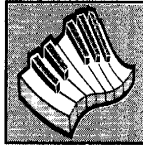
Prepare Ahead: Gather a variety of bedtime items including pajamas, house shoes, teddy bears, an alarm clock, and pillows. Hang the teaching picture “God Made the Moon and Stars” in the Homeliving Area. Toddlers will enjoy getting ready for bed. Say: “We sleep at night. How do we get ready for bed?” Pretend to tuck children in bed. Sing lullabies. Point to the teaching picture and say: “I see the moon and stars. Thank You, God, for the moon and stars.”

Going for a Walk

Tell the children that it is a beautiful day and the baby dolls would like to go for a walk. Have strollers, diaper bags, sunglasses, hats, and baby dolls available in the Homeliving Area. Toddlers will enjoy taking the dolls for a stroll around the room. Be sure to hang the sun above the Homeliving Area. Say, “We are helpers.”

Good Morning

Place several, empty, cereal boxes on a table in the Homeliving Area. Set bowls; spoons; and clean, empty milk jugs beside the boxes. Say, “I am hungry for breakfast.” Stretch and yawn. Pretend you just woke up from a good night’s sleep. Have fun eating a pretend bowl of cereal with the children. Ask for juice or coffee. Watch their little minds work as they search for cups, plates, and spoons.



Music

I See the Moon

Sing “I See the Moon, the Moon Sees Me” with the children.

*I see the moon and the moon sees me.
I see the moon and the moon sees me.
I see the moon and the moon sees me.
God made the moon and God made me.*

Lullabies

Play the cassette tape *Seagulls*. Place toddler-sized rocking chairs and dolls in the Music Area. Encourage toddlers to sing and rock the babies to sleep.

Star

Use masking tape to outline a large star on the floor in the Music Area. Play a cassette tape or compact disc, such as, *Specially Special Songs* or *Rise and Shine*. Toddlers can walk on the tape, jump in and out of the star, dance in the star, or hop around the star. On another day, set a basket of beanbags beside the star. Encourage toddlers to toss the beanbags inside the star. Sing “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” as the children play on the star.

Piano

Place a small, toy piano in the Music Area. Toddlers like to hear the sounds as they bang on the piano. Ask the church pianist to meet you in the worship center of the church one morning or afternoon and play for the children. If possible, ask her to play songs familiar to the children such as "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" or "Jesus Loves Me."



Nature

Daylight Walk

Take a walk outside. Wrap a piece of masking tape around each child's arm so that the sticky side faces out. As toddlers walk, encourage them to pick up small items and stick them to the bracelet. Say: "God made the sun. I see the sun. Thank You, God, for daytime."

Shadow Walk

On a bright, sunny day, take a walk outside your building. Show toddlers their shadows. Wave at the shadows. Jump and walk with the shadows. Say: "God made the sun and the sun makes our shadows. Thank You, God, for sunshine."

Flashlights

Toddlers love to play with flashlights. Place three or four flashlights in the Nature Area. Hang a blanket over two chairs or a table to make a tent. Toddlers may crawl into the tent and shine the flashlights in the dark.

Telescopes

Prepare Ahead: Place toilet tissue tubes in the Nature Area. Tell toddlers that people look through telescopes to see the stars. Say: "God made the stars. Can you find the stars? Look through your telescope and see." Cut stars from construction paper. Tape the stars to the bottom of a table. Drape a blanket over the table. Encourage toddlers to crawl under the blanket to look for stars. If possible, purchase glow-in-the-dark, star stickers to press onto the bottom of the table. For variation, tape stars around the room at the child's eye level. As toddlers hunt for stars in the classroom, say, "Thank You, God, for eyes to see." Take the telescopes outside. Look for the sun and clouds. Say: "We see stars at night. We see the sun, blue sky, and clouds in the day. Thank You, God, for daytime. Thank You, God, for nighttime."

Owls

Place a picture of an owl on the floor in the Nature Area. Lay brown and gray synthetic feathers on a cookie sheet beside the picture. Say, "Owls can see at night." Look at the picture together. Talk with Jeff about the owl. Encourage him to feel the feathers. Say, "Owls have feathers and feathers are soft. Thank You, God, for owls."

Plant

Place a non-poisonous plant (see list in "Appendix") in the Nature Area. Help toddlers water the plant with a small spray bottle. Say: "The sun helps plants to grow. God made the sun. Thank You, God, for the sun."



Puzzles / Manipulatives

Day or Night

➡ *Prepare Ahead:* Cut pictures of daytime and nighttime scenes from magazines. Clean two, gallon-sized, milk jugs. Cut the top off of each jug, using masking tape around the edges. Cut a sun from a piece of orange or yellow paper and glue it to the outside of one milk jug. Cut a moon from a piece of white paper and glue it to the outside of the other milk jug. Help toddlers place the daytime pictures in the "sun" milk jug and the nighttime pictures in the "moon" milk jug.

Matching Stars

➡ *Prepare Ahead:* Cut pairs of stars from four different colors of paper or from wallpaper samples. Laminate the stars and stick a magnet strip on the back of each. Place the stars on a cookie sheet. Help toddlers match the stars.

Pillowcase Pull

On separate sheets of paper, draw the outline of a toothbrush, comb, teddy bear, house shoe, or empty shampoo container. Laminate the pages or cover with clear adhesive. Place the real objects in a pillowcase. Encourage toddlers to pull an item from the pillowcase and match it to its outline. Say: "Daisy found a toothbrush. We brush our teeth in the morning and at night. Thank You, God, for teeth." Talk about each object Daisy pulls from the pillowcase.

Play Dough

To make yellow play dough, mix the following ingredients in a medium-sized pan.

- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 cup salt
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 package yellow Kool-Aid®

Heat over medium heat until play dough firms. Cool and store in a tightly covered container until you are ready to use it. Set the play dough and star cookie cutters on a table. While children are experimenting with the dough, sing "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." Remind the children that "God made the stars."

What Size Is the Moon?

Cut two full moons, two crescent moons, and two half moons from white paper. Glue one set of moons to black poster board; laminate or cover with clear adhesive. Place magnetic tape over the center of each moon on the board. Take the other set of moons and place magnetic tape on the back of each so that the moon pairs will stick together on the poster board. Toddlers will have fun matching the different-shaped moons.

Unit Evaluation

- Did older toddlers understand "day" vs. "night"?
- Were art activities unhurried, allowing each child time to be creative?
- Did parents share experiences from the suggested "Nighttime Walks"?
- Did you learn a new song during this unit to enjoy with the children?

Resources

Art

Do-A-Dot Art™ (ABC)

Blocks

Family Figures (Constructive Playthings)

Train Set (Lakeshore)

Boats (Constructive Playthings)

Colored Wooden Blocks (Constructive Playthings)

Books

Goodnight Moon, Brown (Harper & Row), ISBN 0060207051

Baby's Good Morning, Ricklen (Simon and Schuster), ISBN 067176084X

Baby's Good Night, Ricklen (Simon and Schuster), ISBN 0671760858

God's Wonderful World, Willis (Abingdon, 1990), ISBN 0687031214

I See, Isadora (Greenwillow), ISBN 0688040608

I Touch, Isadora (Greenwillow), ISBN 0688105246

Music

Cassettes/CDs

Rise and Shine by Raffi (Kaplan)

'Specially Special Songs, Music for Early Childhood (Church Street Music)

Sea Gulls . . . Music for Rest and Relaxation (Kaplan)

Songbook

'Specially Special Songs, Music for Early Childhood (Church Street Music)

"God Is So Good"

"Everything Was Made by God"

"It's a Beautiful Day"

Pictures

WEE Learn Teaching Pictures for Two-Year-Olds (Convention)

"God Made the Moon and Stars," Picture 43

"I Love My Family," Picture 20

"God Made Daytime and Nighttime," Picture 44

"God Made Water," Picture 47

Manipulatives/Puzzles

Shape Sorter (Fisher-Price)

Starbuilders (Lakeshore)

UNIT 17

GOD GIVES
US DAY AND
NIGHT

Parent Communications

Dear Parents,

Our unit theme is “God Made Day and Night.” During the unit we will explore the differences in day and night. We will be experimenting with flashlights and shadows while talking about the sun, moon, and stars. We hope to make your child aware of the beautiful world that God created. During the day we will take walks outside, looking at all of the wonderful creations God has given us. We need your help in showing your child the amazing nighttime creations God has given to us. Please take time during the next few days to look at the stars with your toddler or to hold your baby outside under the moonlight. Cherish this moment with your little one. Sing “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” and “God Is So Good.” Thank God for the world He made.

While your child is young, begin to establish a bedtime routine. You know your child and your family’s schedule best, so create a routine that fits your family. One suggestion during the winter months when it gets dark earlier is to have bath time before dinner. If you get home late in the evening, put dinner in the oven and spend quality bath time with your child. Some mothers are able to bathe toddlers and infants before Daddy gets home. This gives Daddy more time to enjoy you and the baby. Remember to include brushing teeth with toddlers. Dentists say that toothpaste is not necessary but your toddler may feel more grownup using it. Let your toddler do as much as she can ON HER OWN. Bathing, brushing teeth, combing hair, picking out a bedtime story, and choosing clothes for the next morning are a must. She will need your assistance at times, but let her do as much as she can! Create independence at an early age. This will build your child’s self-confidence.

Sincerely,

Your Child’s Teachers

Home Activity

Nighttime Walks

Take your baby or toddler on a nighttime stroll. Dress appropriately. Put your little one in the stroller or wagon. Go for a walk around your neighborhood. This will be relaxing for both you and your baby. Notice the beautiful world around you. Thank God for all He has done for you.

Looking At the Stars

Take a blanket outside and spread it on the ground in a comfortable, quiet area. Lie on the blanket with your infant or toddler. Whisper as you talk to your child. Listen for night sounds around you and gaze at the stars. Make this a special time for you and your child.

Bedtime Stories

Make bedtime stories a priority. Set books your child enjoys on a low shelf or in a crate. Let him choose a bedtime story each night. Curl up in his bed or in a rocking chair and enjoy reading to him. Point to pictures and words. Spend time talking and cuddling together. Even though infants cannot choose a book, pick one, and read to them, too.

Flashlight Fun

Purchase a flashlight for your toddler. He will play with the light for hours. Teach him to shine the light on objects — not into anyone's eyes.

