

Teaching Christian Weekday Early Education

Pamela K. Boucher, compiler



Teaching in



Christian

Weekday



Early

Education

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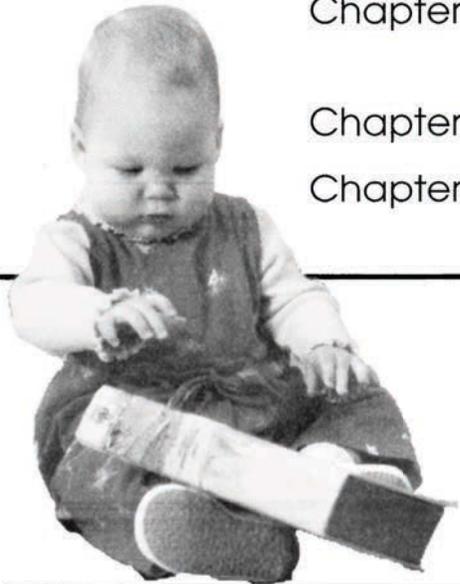
The Biblical Foundation for Weekday Early Education

Chapter 1: The Eternal Perspective: Knowing God

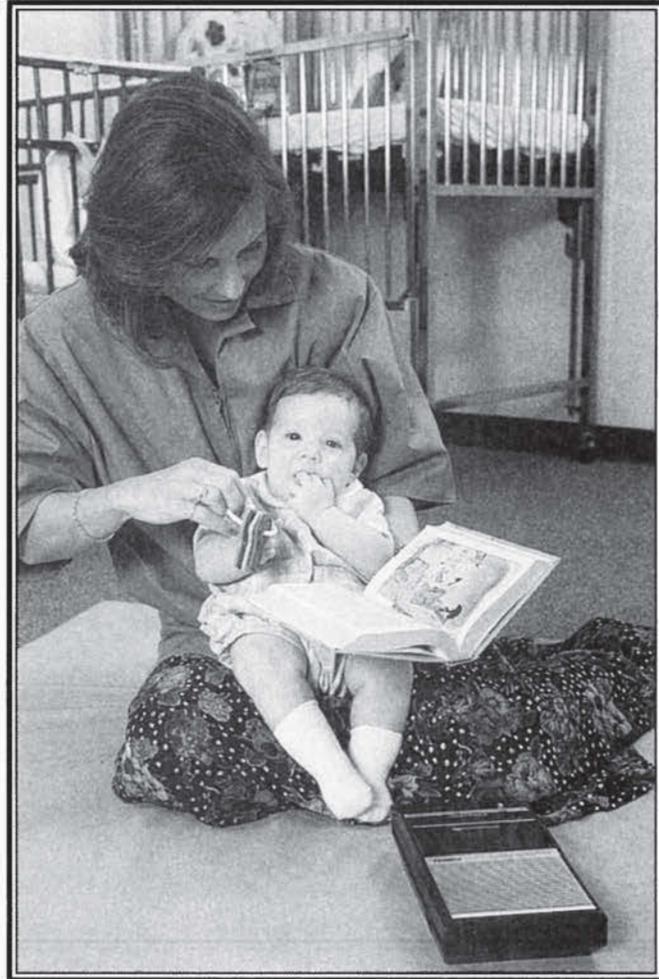
Chapter 2: The Home Environment: A Model for Learning

Chapter 3: The Child: God's Unique Creation

Chapter 4: The Teacher: A Partner in God's Plan



Teaching in Christian Weekday Early Education



***“O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you”
(Ps. 63:1, NIV).***

Chapter 1

The Eternal Perspective: Knowing God

Teaching in a Christian weekday education program is a high calling from God. The work that you will be doing is extremely vital to laying a foundation by which a young child can come to know God in a personal way. Too often, little importance is placed on the role that weekday preschool program teachers play.

I was recently invited to speak at a church in Alabama. The church had a weekday preschool program and planned to add a few elementary grades the following year. I was asked to speak to the congregation on the importance of Christian education. Before I spoke, someone sang a song that I had never heard. As I listened to the words, I was moved by their meaning. The words clearly present the role you will play as you teach in a weekday program.

The song, entitled “We’re Building Temples,” was written by Kathie Hill. Carefully consider the words to this amazing song.

We’re Building Temples

*This child fast asleep, looks so content as I watch over her bed.
But I need to think back on the day we have spent, to all I did and said.
Did she feel safe and know that I care? Did I say the things that made her feel loved?
For my life and my words form the image of the person she someday will become.*

Chorus:

*We’re building temples for Jesus to live in;
Rooms warm and welcome where He’ll reside.
These children are our own
But someday when they’re grown we pray they’ll be the temples where Jesus will abide.*

*Lord, help us to build a foundation of trust knowing that we love them so.
With walls of pure faith that will stand against the winds of doubt that blow.
Let your love be the roof that covers their lives and protects them from the rains of defeat.
Help mold in their hearts open windows where the light of Your salvation will stream.*

Chorus:

*We're building temples for Jesus to live in;
rooms warm and welcome where He'll
reside.*

*These children are our own but someday
when they're grown
we pray they will be the temples where
Jesus will abide.¹*

Every weekday education teacher must realize she is a part of the process of building a temple where Jesus can reside. What an amazing thought and what an amazing role you will play in this life-changing process called teaching!

Proverbs 22:6 instructs, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." In this one small verse, there is tremendous insight into God's way of training a child. The words *train up* literally mean to create within the child a desire to learn. Everything you do as a weekday teacher should have the goal of helping children develop a thirst for learning. Your role is not to merely create a desire in the child to learn a lot of facts. Rather, a Christian weekday teacher must help each child find joy in learning and provide a foundation for trust.

We refer to God's plan of education as *kingdom education*. Kingdom education has specific principles that guide the entire educational process for a child. It is defined as *the life-long, Bible-based, Christ-centered process of . . .*

*. . . leading a child to Christ,
. . . building the child up in Christ,
. . . and equipping the child to serve Christ.*

Let's look at a story in the Old Testament that will give us an analogy of our roles in weekday early education. Recall the words of Kathie Hill's song, "*We're building temples for Jesus to live in.*" First Kings, chapter 6, provides an account of Solomon building the first temple.

It was a magnificent edifice, made from strong timbers, precious metals, and beautiful fabrics. When completed, it was ready for occupancy. Scripture tells us how a cloud filled the temple, and God, Himself, took up residence there.

When the nation of Israel passed by the temple which Solomon built, imagine some of the conversations that might have been overheard. There were probably comments such as: "Look how beautiful the temple is." "What magnificent detail work is in the wood!" "Have you ever seen something more splendid than the metal work?"

There was part of the temple, however, that never received any public recognition once the temple was completed. First Kings 5:15-18 reveals one of the most significant aspects of the entire building project. In these verses we read about those who cut the rocks from the quarry, brought them to the building site, and laid these huge pieces of granite as the temple's foundation.

When you study this portion of God's Word, you discover there were literally thousands of unsung heroes, simply referred to as *stone hewers and burden bearers*. However, if these individuals had not performed their

tasks properly, the temple would never have been completed. Once the foundation was in place, it was covered up, never to receive its due credit. The attention was directed to the visible building, not on its essential foundation.

This is the role that you, the Christian weekday education teacher, play in the building of God's temples. You are one of the stone hewers or burden bearers. The work is extremely hard and tedious. It begins anew every day. Your work helps to lay a foundation on which others will come along and do the finishing work. Unfortunately, like the burden bearers and stone hewers of the Old Testament, the work of the Christian weekday teacher sometimes goes unnoticed, and many do not place proper importance on this crucial task.

But God takes note and He strengthens all those engaged in this work. As stone hewers and burden bearers, you are taking the rough pieces of stone and helping parents start to shape each life so it can be built into a beautiful temple where Jesus will reside. Three basic tools you will use in the task are:

1. Your hands
2. Your lips
3. Your heart

This resource will give you valuable information to assist in knowing what you should do with your hands, what you should say with your lips and what you should show from your heart to be a successful Christian weekday education teacher.

As you study each aspect presented in the pages that follow, remember these very important facts. Every child who enters your classroom has three fundamental needs. You will play a significant role in helping meet these needs, which are:

1. Unconditional Christ-like love
2. Spirit-guided direction
3. Biblically-based correction.

It is our prayer that you will become an expert stone hewer and burden bearer. As you become more and more skilled in your role as a teacher, God will use you to develop that foundation in a child's life so that one day he or she will become a beautiful temple where Jesus will abide.



“Do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them” (Deut. 4:9, NIV).