

# 100 Toddler Action Songs

We've selected rhymes and actions appropriate for toddlers. A few simple, familiar tunes have been used over and over so that two and three year olds can easily grasp the meaning of the words.

—The editors

## Songs About Jesus and God

**1** Help toddlers praise God by singing these words to the tune, *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*.

**Worship God today,**

**Worship with a clap.**

Clap hands on the word clap

**Joyfully, joyfully, joyfully, joyfully,**

Clap hands in rhythm

**Worship with a clap.**

Clap hands on the word clap

**2** This rhyme, to the tune *Farmer in the Dell*, will help toddlers learn about God's creation.

**First a flower is small;**

Crouch low

**Then it grows so tall.**

Stand tall and stretch arms up

**I like flowers big and small.**

Stand tall, then crouch low

**I'm glad God made them all.**

Stand and clap hands

**3** Let children pretend to swim or fly as you sing the following song to the tune of *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*.

**Splish, splash, splish and splash.**

**Fish go swimming by.**

**God made fish both big and small,**

**They swim all day and night.**

**Flip, flap, flip and flap.**

**Birds go flying by.**

**God made birds both big and small,**

**They fly high in the sky.**

**4** Sing these words to the tune, *Old MacDonald Had a Farm* as children hold hands and walk in a circle changing directions on each verse.

**God made horses, sheep, and cows.**

**Neigh, neigh, baa, baa, moo.**

**The farmer cares for each of them.**

**God shows him what to do.**

**Farmers feed the animals hay.**

**Yum, yum, that tastes good.**

**God helps farmers grow the hay.**

**Because it is good food.**

**God made all the noisy squirrels.**

**Chatter, chee-chee, chee.**

**God made acorns, leaves, and nuts**

**For the squirrels to eat.**

**5** Sing this "story" about Zacchaeus to the tune of *Are You Sleeping?*

**Where's Zacchaeus, where's Zacchaeus?**

Look around

**In a tree, in a tree,**

Point up

**Waiting to see Jesus, waiting to see Jesus.**

Shield eyes with hand

**In a tree, in a tree.**

Point up

**Here comes Jesus, here comes Jesus.**

Have fingers of right hand "walk"  
on left arm

**Down the road, down the road.**

**Jesus sees Zacchaeus, Jesus sees Zacchaeus.**

Shield eyes with hand

(Continued on next page.)

# 100 More Toddler Action Songs

## Songs About Our World

**1** Sing these words to the tune of *Ring Around the Rosey* as children march in a circle. Then ask children to tell you some other things God made and make up as many verses as you'd like.

**God makes the rainbows.  
God makes the rainbows.  
Rainbows, rainbows.  
Thank You, God.**

**2** Children will enjoy this simple song sung to the tune *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*.

**Spring and summer, winter, fall.**  
Children clap on first two lines  
**Thank You, God! You made them all.**  
Children point up for last two lines

**3** This next song tells of some other things God made. Use the tune of *Paw-Paw Patch*.

**God made fish. God made flowers.**  
Wiggle wrists with palms together,  
then sniff

**God made apples and rain showers.**  
Rub stomach, then wiggle fingers  
overhead

**God made mountains, stars, and trees**  
Touch fingertips overhead, wiggle  
fingers, then reach high

**Made them everyone for you and me!**  
Point to self

**4** For this song, sung to *Skip to My Lou*, have children hold hands and move around as they sing. On the last line have everybody stop and clap to the rhythm.

**Who made the hills and the stars at night?**

Touch fingertips overhead;  
wiggle fingers in air

**Who made the grass and clouds so white?**

Touch floor; wave arms overhead

**Who made the birds and giraffes so tall?**

**God is the One who made them!**

Clap four times in rhythm

**5** Toddlers will love singing this song and choosing animals to sing about in each verse. As they sing the verses have them act out each animal named. Use the tune of *Old MacDonald Had a Farm*.

**I'm so glad God made the duck.**

**G-L-A-D glad!**

**I'm glad God gave him a home.**

**G-L-A-D glad!**

**With a quack, quack here**

**And a quack, quack there,**

**Here a quack, there a quack,**

**Everywhere a quack, quack.**

**I'm so glad God made the duck.**

**G-L-A-D glad.**

**6** Children will pretend to be little seeds as they do the actions in this next song sung to the tune of *Skip to My Lou*.

**Little seed is in the ground.**

Crouch on ground

**Rain falls gently, gently down.**

Wiggle fingers overhead

**First a shoot and then a bud.**

Slowly raise arms overhead

**Then a pretty flower!**

Circle face with hands

# 100 Action Songs for Preschoolers

## Songs About Jesus and God

**1** This action rhyme is sung to the tune of *The Farmer in the Dell*. Teach the words and actions to your pupils.

**God sends the rain to fall.**

Raise, then lower arms,  
wiggling fingers

**God sends the shining sun.**

Touch fingertips overhead

**And Jesus lives to show the world**

Raise arms high

**God's love for everyone.**

Hug self

**2** Sing the following song to the tune of *Mulberry Bush*. Children may clap as they sing, use the actions, or join hands and walk in a circle.

**Jesus is a Friend of mine,**

Point up, then to self

**Friend of mine, Friend of mine.**

Point to self

**Jesus is a Friend of mine,**

**He'll always be with me.**

Nod and hug self

Alternate last lines:

**I'll thank him every day.**

Point to self; fold hands in prayer

**He listens when I pray.**

Point up, then to ears; fold hands

**The Bible tells me so.**

Hold hands together to make a book

**3** Teach children this action rhyme to *The Farmer in the Dell*.

**The flowers bloom so bright.**

Wrists together, palms open

**The birds fly high and free.**

Arms high, wave hands

**I know God cares for all these things.**

Spread arms wide

**I feel His love for me.**

Hug self

**4** Sing the following words to the tune *London Bridge Is Falling Down*. Children can clap as they sing or join hands and walk in circle.

**Jesus wants me to be good,**

**To be good,**

**To be good.**

**Jesus wants me to be good.**

**He will help me.**

**Jesus wants me to forgive,**

**To forgive,**

**To forgive,**

**Jesus wants me to forgive.**

**He will help me.**

**5** Teach children these words and actions to the song *Jesus Loves Me*. Use these words for the verse, but sing the traditional words for the chorus.

**Jesus always hears me pray.**

Fold hands

**Jesus watches over me.**

Shade eyes with hands

**Jesus loves me everyday**

Hug self

**And He helps my family.**

Point up, then make roof with hands

**6** Sing this verse to the tune *Farmer in the Dell*. It can be sung as a prayer.

**Dear Lord, I love You.**

**Dear Lord, I love You.**

**Because You love me as You do,**

**Yes, Lord, I love You.**

# 100 More Preschool Action Songs

## Songs About Our World

**1** Let children celebrate the wonderful world God has made as they clap and sing this song to the tune of *The Farmer in the Dell*.

**God gave us a wonderful world.  
God gave us a wonderful world.  
Let's all thank Him for this gift.  
God gave us a wonderful world.**

These next few songs list some of the specific things God has made.

**2** Clap and sing this to the tune of *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*:

**Plants, plants, God made plants.  
He made all the plants.  
We need plants to help us live.  
Praise God for the plants.**

**3** Try to find a picture of each animal mentioned in this song. Hand out pictures and have children hold them up at the appropriate time in the song. Sing to *Paw-Paw Patch*.

**God made lions, God made raccoons.  
God made dolphins, cats, and baboons.  
God made birds to sing lots of tunes.  
God made animals for me and you.**

**God made chicks and kangaroos.  
God made zebras, dogs, and moose.  
God made spiders, penguins, too.  
God made animals for me and you.**

**4** Sing this rhyme to *Skip to My Lou*:

**God made the fish.  
Make swimming motions  
And God made the seas.  
God made the birds.  
Make flying motions  
And God made the trees.  
God made you,  
Point to someone  
And God made me.  
Point to self  
God made it all.  
Spread arms out  
Let's praise Him!  
Clap hands**

**5** Have children hold hands and sway as they sing this song to *Did You Ever See a Lassie?*

**Did you ever see the oceans,  
The oceans, the oceans.  
Did you know God made the oceans?  
He made them just right.**

Add other verses, substituting words such as "a mountain," "a pear tree," "a parrot," "a zebra," "a snowflake," and so on for the words "the oceans."

# 100 Activities for Preschoolers

Here are 100 ideas for activities you can do with preschoolers in your classroom or at home. Some activities are best suited for two year olds; others will be enjoyed most by four or five year olds. As you do these activities with your children, relate each activity to God's love and all that He does for us.

## Activities About Jesus and God

### 1 Sheepfold

Use this activity when you have a Bible story about Jesus, our Good Shepherd, or young David or any other person who was a shepherd.

Help children make a sheepfold by making a fence of blocks. Leave an open doorway. Place cotton balls inside of the fence for sheep. Move the sheep outside the sheepfold to eat grass: put sheep inside the sheepfold to sleep.

**Option:** Make a sheepfold of chairs: let children be sheep.

### 2 God the Creator

Have preschoolers help you look through old magazines and find pictures of things that God made (plants, animals, people). Tear or cut out the pictures and glue them on pieces of paper or grocery sacks.

Lead children in thanking God for His creations. Have a child point to each picture and say, "Thank You, God, for . . ." (name object in picture).

### 3 God Made...

Help children remember some of God's creations by playing a simple version of "Simon Says." After naming one of the many things that God created, do an action with your child. You might say, "God made the fish" as you pretend to swim, and "God made the birds" as you pretend to fly. End your game by saying these words from Genesis 1:31: "Everything God made was very good."

### 4 What Did Adam Need?

Have children imitate you as you act out some of the things Adam needed. Ask: "Who made the things Adam needed?" Then tear out magazine and catalog pictures of things God gives us: homes, food, water, plants, friends. Paste the pictures on construction paper, punch a couple of holes on one side, and tie the pages together with yarn to make a book. Write on the cover, "God Gives Us What We Need."

### 5 Animals in the Ark

Select an animal picture book and help children name animals Noah may have taken into the ark. Talk about how Noah obeyed God by building an ark and taking animals inside.

Children might want to gather stuffed animals. They could pretend to take the animals inside a boat made of chairs. Mention during the week that we obey God just as Noah did when we talk to God, do what Mom and Dad say, show love for others, etc.

### 6 Sharing Like Abraham

Your preschoolers will enjoy the story of Abraham and Lot if you provide some blocks to build a well and some cotton balls to represent sheep as in the first activity. Help crowd the cotton "sheep" all around the well, then divide them into two groups, as Abraham and Lot divided the land. Talk about how God wants families to get along.

*(Continued on next page.)*

# 100 More Activities for Preschoolers

## Bible Story Activities

### 1 God Separates the Water

Demonstrate God separating the water from the land in this way. Fill a large dishpan 1/4 full of sand and add a few large rocks. Add water until sand and rocks are covered. Push the sand to one side with one hand and the "land" and "mountains" will appear.

### 2 God Cares for Birds

Gather around a parakeet, canary, or other pet bird in a cage. Encourage the children to talk in soft voices so as not to frighten it. If the bird is tame, bring it out on your finger; otherwise just watch it in its cage.

Help the children enjoy the bird by asking some of the following questions:

What colors are the bird's feathers?

How did the bird get dressed this morning?

What kind of sound does the bird make?

What does it eat?

### 3 Find the Lost Sheep

After telling the Bible story of Jesus and the lost sheep, talk about what a difficult task it was to find a little lost sheep in the night with no flashlight. Explain that the shepherd would have had to use his ears to listen carefully for the sound of the sheep. Then let children play a game of blind tag called "Find the Lost Sheep." The "lost sheep" will stand or hide somewhere in the room and say a soft "baa" every few seconds. The rest of the children must keep their eyes closed and search for the sheep using only their hands and their ears. The child who finds the sheep gets to be the "lost sheep" in the next round.

### 4 Hungry Lambs

In this game one child is chosen as a shepherd. The shepherd's job is to tag the hungry lambs who are "baaing." This quiets the sheep. After each hungry lamb is tagged, he or she must count to ten before "baaing" again. See if the shepherd can get everyone quiet at once.

### 5 Wolf!

Choose one child to be a shepherd and another to be a wolf. All the rest play sheep. During play, the wolves make the sound of "grrr" and the sheep "baaa." Sheep try to stay away from wolves, but if tagged by a wolf, that "sheep" becomes a wolf. All wolves try to tag sheep without being tagged by the shepherd. If the shepherd tags a wolf, the wolf becomes a sheep again. Play for a minute at a time. Count to see how many sheep are left. Play several times with different starting characters. Stay within a designated area.

### 6 What's It Like?

This activity will be especially meaningful if done after either the story of blind Bartimaeus or the ten lepers. Preschoolers may never have thought about what it feels like to miss out on things because of a physical disability. This activity will give children the opportunity to find out what it's like to be blind, or to be without the use of a leg.

Let volunteers take turns being blindfolded. Have each volunteer feel the face of two or three children and try to guess who they are. Use the blindfold to tie a volunteer's leg in a bent position. Have the volunteers try to walk, pushing a small chair in front of them for balance. Talk about how Jesus showed His love for people with special needs by taking time to notice their problems and heal them.

# 100 Crafts for Preschoolers

Here are 100 ideas for simple crafts based on simple concepts. Making their own creations will delight preschoolers—even if they require a little help from you. Some of these crafts are geared for 2 and 3 year olds, but most are for older preschoolers -those who can use scissors and follow simple directions. Some of these suggestions require advance preparation by an adult or adult assistance. To help you prepare for each craft, the materials needed are printed in **bold type**.

Don't forget to praise your preschoolers for the effort they put into their projects!

## Bible Story Crafts

### 1 Fish and Net

In Bible times, fishermen used nets instead of poles to catch fish.

*In advance:* Cut out a **cardboard** fish pattern.

Use a **felt-tip marker** to trace the fish pattern onto a **sheet of paper for each child**. Cut six thin strips of paper (11-12" long) for each child. Use different colors of paper to get a netting effect. These strips will form a "fishing net."

Give each child a fish to cut out with blunt-edged **scissors**. Fish can then be glued onto sheets of **blue construction paper**. If desired, the edges of the blue paper can be torn slightly to create an illusion of water.

Then help children **glue** on strips of construction paper so that the strips overlap in a horizontal and vertical manner, giving the appearance of a net. (Some children may actually be able to weave the strips over and under with some assistance.) Optional: Glue on nylon net material or plastic vegetable nets if available.

### 2 Terry Cloth Babies

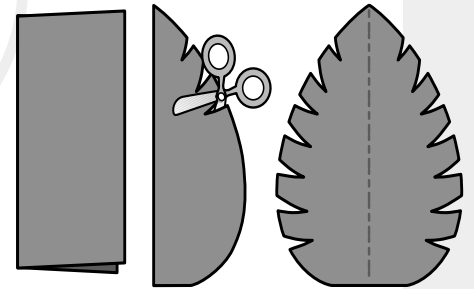
Give each child a 6" square of **terry cloth**. Cut circles from **construction paper** and let children draw faces on circles, or cut baby faces from appropriate gift wrap. **Paste** a baby's face in one corner of each terry cloth square, then fold the other corners as if wrapping a real baby.

Use these little visual aides when you teach Bible stories involving babies-Samson, Isaac, Samuel, Moses, and Jesus.

### 3 Palm Branches

Give each child a piece of **green construction paper** and show how to fold it in half length-wise. Then help children round out the two open corners

with (blunt-edged) **scissors**. Children may cut slits along the open side, but they should be careful to leave some room between the slits and not to cut through the fold. Unfold for palm branches.



### 4 Kingly Crowns

You'll need:

- lightweight cardboard**
- stapler, glue**
- aluminum foil**
- glitter, sequins, etc.**

For each child, provide a strip of cardboard about 2" to 3" wide and long enough to wrap around child's head. Help children cover strips of cardboard by pasting or gluing large pieces of aluminum foil around them.

Decorate crowns with whatever materials you have available. If you add glitter and sequins, (Continued on next page.)

# 100 Indoor Games for Preschoolers

A room full of preschoolers means a room full of energy. This section is loaded with games that will help you use that energy to praise God and learn more about His love. Just a quick look through these fresh game ideas will make planning a time with preschoolers easy for any setting: home, school, church, anywhere! And keep this handy for those times when you need an on-the-spot idea.

## Getting to Know You

### 1 I Spy a Special Person

Play a version of "I Spy" called "I Spy a Special Person." When playing this game, children can highlight positive features about other children such as hair color, eye color, clothing. The leader demonstrates by saying something like "I spy a special person who is wearing blue stripes." The children can raise their hands to guess who the special person is. The child who guesses correctly gets to be the next one to choose the special person. Each child should be chosen at least once as you emphasize that God has made everyone wonderful and unique.

### 2 What's My Name?

Sitting in a circle, children say their own name aloud just before rolling the ball to another person in the circle. Encourage eye contact so that they will know when they will be receiving the ball. The game may be played again later with the child calling the name of another child in the circle before rolling the ball to that person. This will introduce them to the group and help them to learn the names of other children.

### 3 Meet My Friend

Here is a game that will help children become better acquainted. Hide pairs of different colored happy faces around the room. When the leader says "GO!" the children search for one face. When two children find the same color they become partners. They are then to find out their partner's name and favorite animal. When the group comes back together, each child can introduce his or her partner.

### 4 Group Hug!

Play music as children move around the room. Direct their movement with directions such as tip-toe, skip, hop, crawl, etc. When the music stops, each child finds someone to hug, saying "Jesus loves you!" Repeat with instructions for groups of three to hug, then four, etc. The kids may make a new friend as they share Jesus' love through hugs!

### 5 Touch That Color!

This game is another opportunity for children to get to know each other and to remind them of all the fun colors that God has made. Place children in pairs or small groups. The leader calls out, "Touch something red (or another color)!" and each child must touch a piece of their partner's clothing that is the color the leader called out.