

# Celebrate Children!



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**A**s you're listing reasons to be thankful this season, don't forget to look down. You know that adorable 3' 3" person standing before you has blessed your life in more ways than one!

We asked several parents to tell us why they are thankful for their toddler or preschool-age child. We hope their insightful answers will remind you of all the qualities you find so endearing about your own son or daughter.

### THEIR WONDER AND SIMPLICITY

"I appreciate their love for the simple things in life. An empty box can be an exciting adventure for

an hour at a time. Complex toys that someone has spent lots of money on hardly get two minutes."

"My 4-year-old boy is filled with wonder at every aspect of nature. For example, he will be ecstatic about his latest discovery of a beetle, or an ant hill, or a colorful leaf, or a rock with its interesting shape. But by far his greatest joy is the moon! As we drive in the car each evening, he stares intently at it, commenting on its shape, how it 'follows' him or how it 'hides' behind a cloud. He is a brilliant observer of God's creation, and we are thankful for how it gives us pause to be amazed at God's glory on display in the heavens."

"My daughter, Sophia, is full of enthusiasm, joy and sensitivity. She helps us to appreciate simple pleasures like flowers and animals, dancing and singing, and tickling and snuggling."

### THEIR MINDS

"We love their inquisitive minds. They always want to find out 'why,' 'how' and 'when.' While this can be annoying at times, at the heart of these questions is a desire to learn about the world. That is a wonderful trait in our children."

"I like the way children think about things. Their logic is so simple. It is honest, humorous and sometimes insightful."

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"I appreciate my toddler's mind. It's amazing to see him figure out things on his own and then have a huge smile on his face."

"They are so ready to soak up anything, so it is an amazingly effective time to teach them praise songs and Bible verses that they will never forget."

**THEIR HUMOR AND PLAY**

"I love it when my son dances without a care just to make us smile. Or when he tries to sing 'Jesus Loves Me' and only knows about four words of the song."

"I enjoy watching my kids 'act out' life – mothering a baby, building a house, creating a train track, serving a delicious meal of plastic corn and pizza in a Tupperware® container. Watching imagination at play is one of the delights of mothering."

"My kids never stop running – at the park, down the sidewalk, in circles around our house. Although their energy usually makes me tired, there is something about their exuberance that makes me want to enjoy life more fully."

**THEIR LOVE**

"It's such a joy to get home from work and hear a little voice yell, 'Daddy, daddy!'"

"My daughter will not only ask for forgiveness readily, but she forgives readily and will go from a sad face to a very happy face in no time flat. She doesn't hold a grudge but shares her love very freely!"

"My 2-year-old adores my hair. She's never happier than when she strokes my hair and lays her head on my shoulder. This simple act – her fingers entwined in my hair – stirs my heart and makes me feel deeply connected to her."

"Each one of my children lights up my world. When a day is going wrong, one (if not all of them) will walk up and just hug and kiss me and say, 'I love you mommy!' Right then, my day has gone from glum to sunny."



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**Proverbs**  
for Parents

Parents, remember WHY you discipline your child. Like the Lord, you do it because of LOVE. *For whom the LORD loveth He correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth (Proverbs 3:12).*



**FAMILY TIME IDEAS**

In the October issue, we encouraged families to set some minutes or hours aside for a focused time of fun and spiritual learning. During this time, the whole family comes together to read God's Word, work on Awana® handbooks, and experience other creative, meaningful activities.

This month, try adding **drama** to your Bible reading time. First, select a Bible story that involves lots of action. Good choices are David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17:1-54), Jonah and the Big Fish (Jonah 1-4) or The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).

Then assign each family member a part and act out the story together as you read it. Remember that people can play the parts of animals and even inanimate objects (like a boat or a sling shot). Be creative!

## A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS

We asked about 20 parents to name their favorite things to do with their preschool children. Then we compiled their responses and created a calendar just for you. See if you can enjoy a different activity with your Cubbie each day of this month!

By the way, "reading together" was mentioned more than any other activity (by a landslide). It may be time for another trip to the library!



1 Go to the playground or a park.	2 Take a walk.	3 Read favorite books.	4 Do a silly dance.	5 Cook something together.	6 Sing, sing, sing.	7 Take a field trip to a zoo or museum.
8 Color together.	9 Play a game.	10 Watch a movie and share a bowl of popcorn.	11 Wrestle or chase each other around the house.	12 Make Play-Doh® creations.	13 Go fruit picking.	14 Imitate your favorite animals.
15 Go swimming.	16 Play ball outside.	17 Visit a local farm.	18 Go on an "exploring expedition."	19 Do a puzzle or craft.	20 Have a bedtime talk.	21 Make funny faces at each other.
22 Garden together.	23 Do an outdoor or indoor picnic.	24 Read a Bible verse or story.	25 Play in the sandbox.	26 Tickle each other.	27 Go grocery shopping together.	28 Play house or doctor.
29 Snuggle together.	30 Do a chore together.					



Awana®  
**Parent**

P A U S E

**November 2009**

Inspiration and ideas for parents of preschoolers

## Our Club News



The second Puggles precept is

*God saw that it was good.*  
*(Genesis 1:10)*

**Parents,** point to each picture on this page and ask your child to name the items in the picture. Then ask, "Who made this?" (*God made \_\_\_\_\_.*) Repeat the second Puggles precept each time.

After you have looked at all the pictures, have your child copy your finger motions as you review the days of creation from Genesis 1. Hold up one finger and say, "On Day One, God made the light." Hold up two fingers and say, "On Day Two, God made the sky ..." (and so on).

Close your time in prayer together, expressing to God the reasons why you are thankful for all the good things He made.

