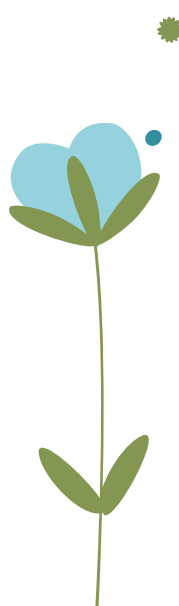
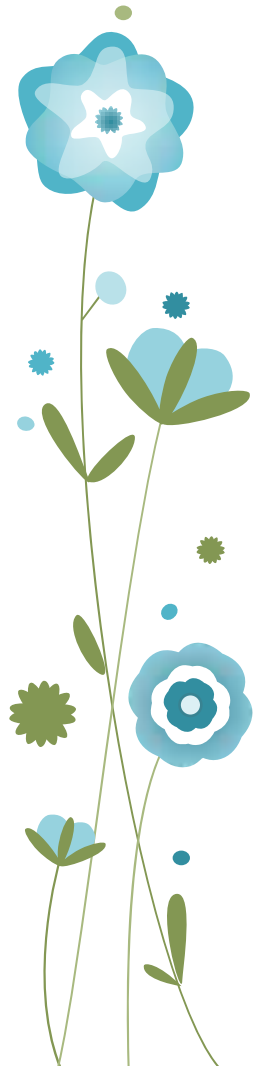


Laying the Foundation

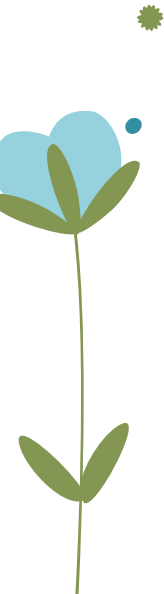
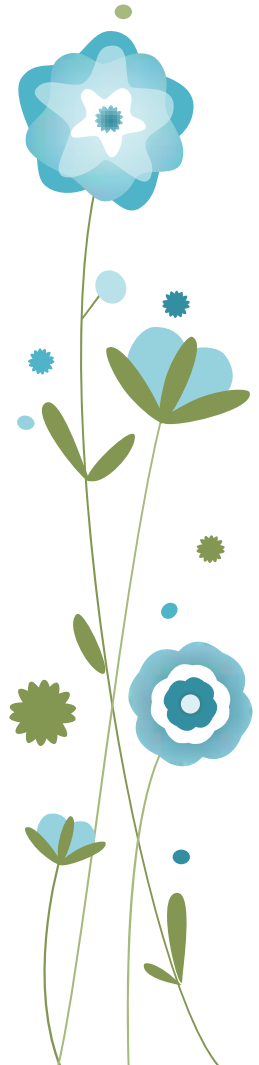
Spiritual Formations for Young Children

Presented by Julie Hendry
SBACS Early Education Consultant

Dear Jesus...Hear Our Prayers...



“A Basket of Little Souls”

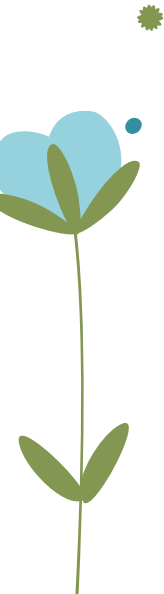
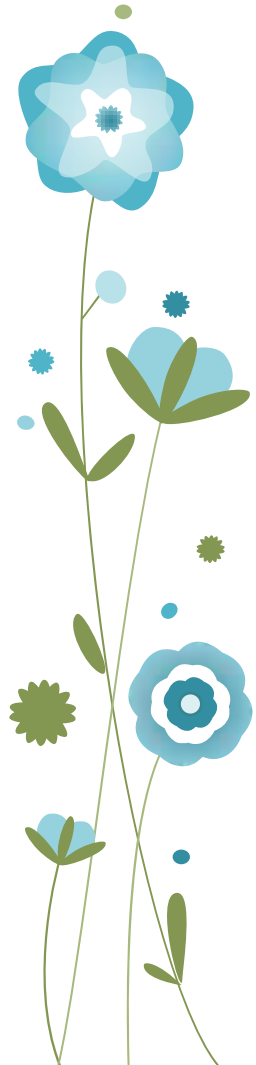


Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me.”

How do we bring children to Christ?

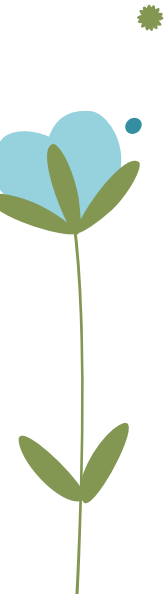
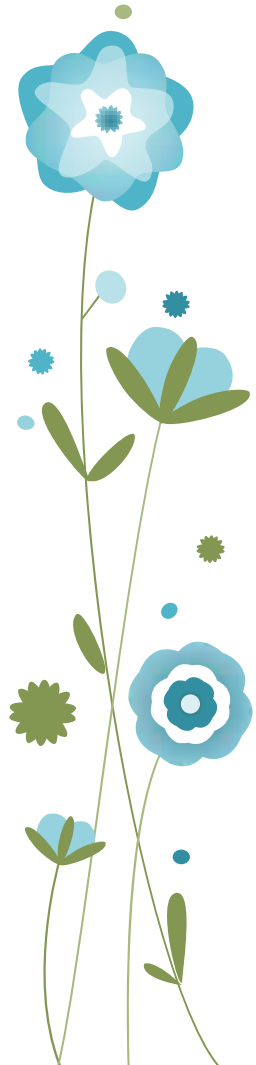
How do we bring their families to our church?

How do we bring the children and their families to the Kingdom?



Our Mandate from God... “GO”!

- **The Great Commission mandates that we reach people for Christ.**
- **This includes children and families. They are the growth point for most churches.**
- **Young families are an indicator of church health.**
- **Do you have a plan in place to “Harvest” the families that come to the church property on Monday –Friday?**
- **Do you have a deliberate plan and defined “Spiritual Culture” for your week-day ministry?**

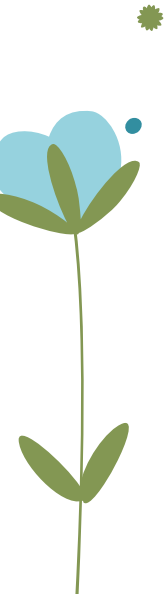
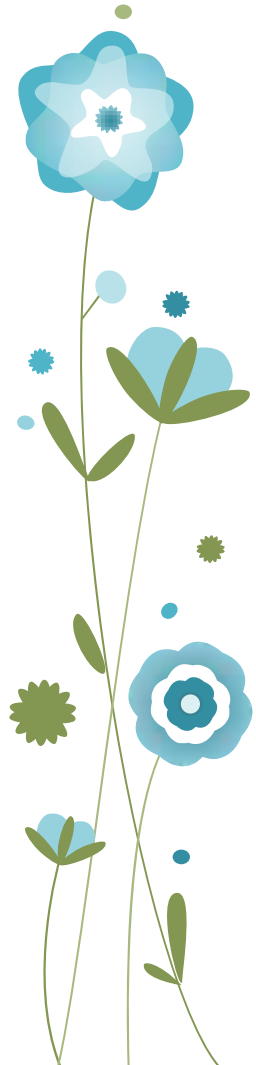


Serving Families

Today's families are looking for a place where their children will be loved and cared for in a safe environment.

These families may not have “Spiritual Formations” as a goal for their child. More interested in preparations for academic success.

How many of your church families attend your week-day ministry?



“YOU” are “The Church” during the week...

BIBLICAL PRACTICES

Do you pray daily for your children and families?

Do you pray daily for your Pastors and Church Leaders?

Do you pray daily for staff members and co-workers?

Do you PRAY TOGETHER?

PROFESSIONAL REMINDERS

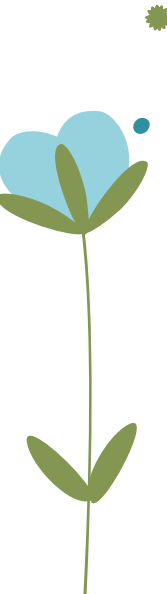
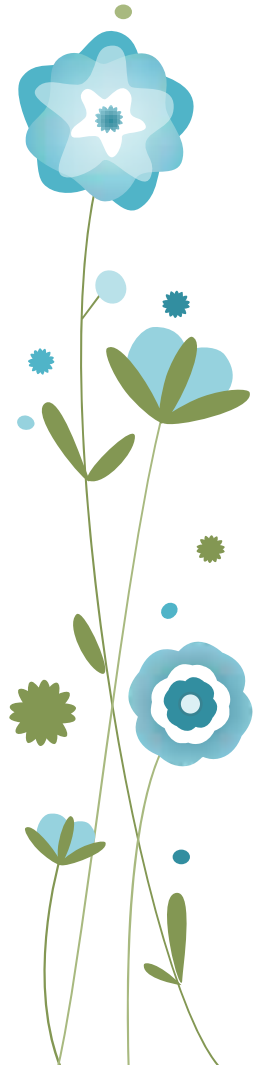
Licensing and State Childcare Regulations and Standards

Policies and Procedures

Employee Relations

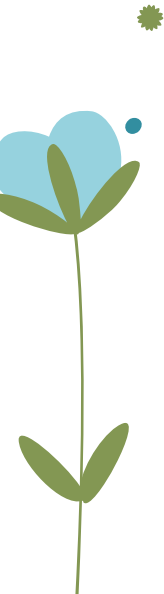
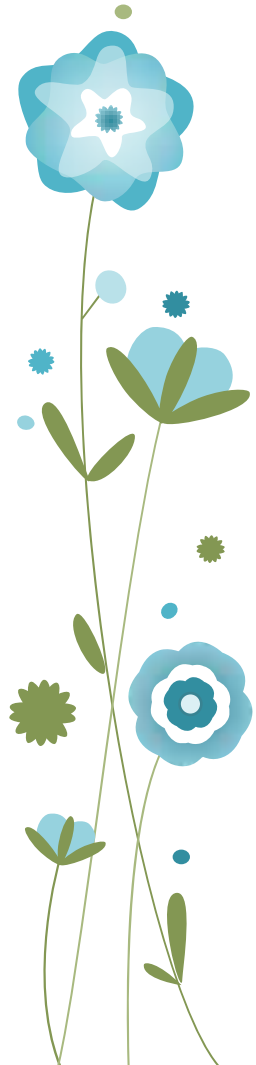
Curriculum, Lesson Plans and Assessments

Marketing and Social Media



Review of Child Growth and Development

- **Cognitive/Learning Attitude/Intellectual Development**
- **Physical/Motor Development**
- **Social and Emotional Development**
- **Moral/Spiritual Development**

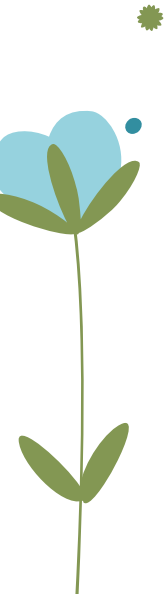
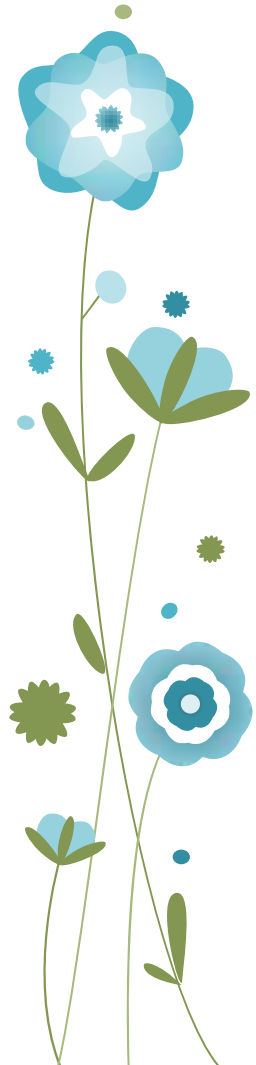


PLEASE REMEMBER...

“Not just the brain comes to school!”

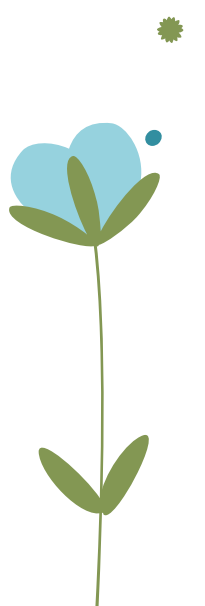
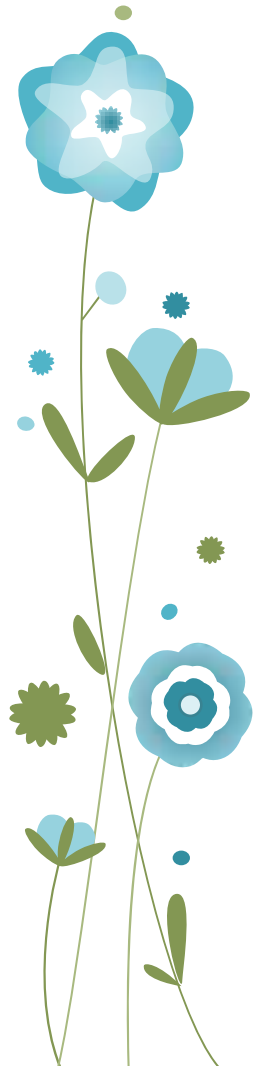
Dr. Milt Euckler

Professor of Early Childhood Education at Columbia College



General Path of Development

Infants
Toddlers
Two's
Three's
Four's
Five's



Spiritual Formations of Young Children...

Worldview

The World says we are to create and develop “Super Kids”

There has been a SHIFT in the Classrooms of most Preschool Programs. VPK in Florida is now teaching concepts used for the FCAT Assessment given in 4th grade. Can you say RHOMBUS?

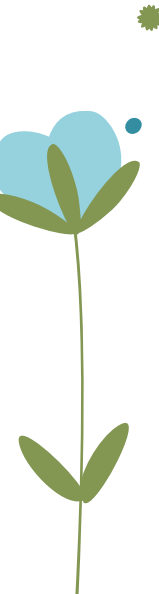
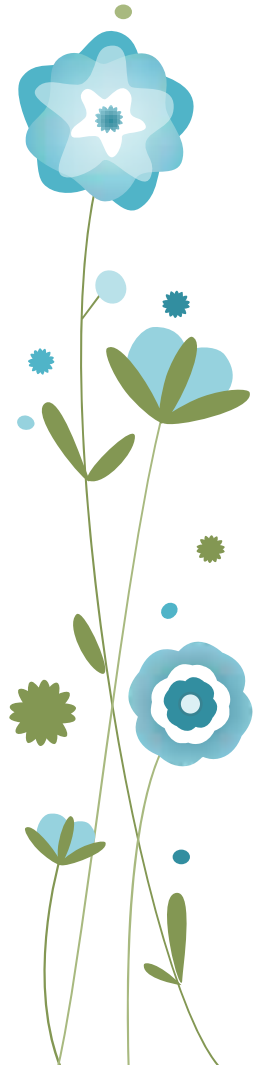
More required reading, writing and math and science.

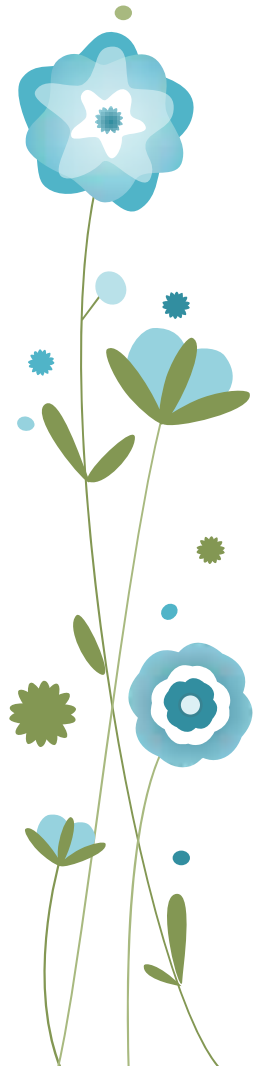
God’s Design

Children develop according to a God Ordained plan and timetable

They learn with their **WHOLE BODY**

Children learn Spiritual Truths as infants...this builds the heart to “KNOW” and “FEEL” the love of God



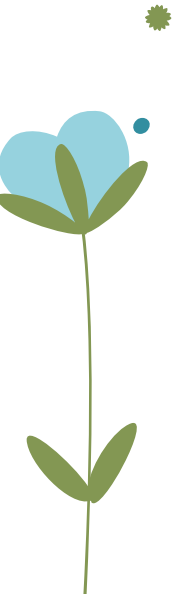
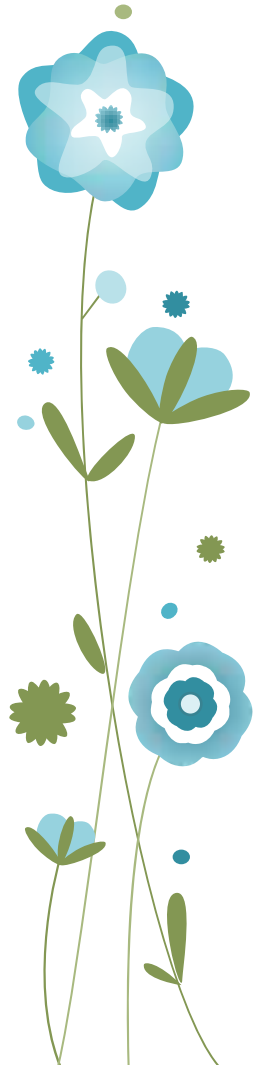
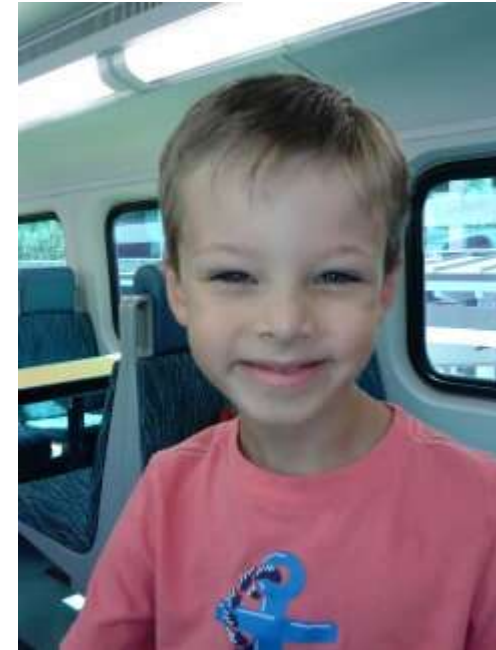


**“And Jesus Grew in
Wisdom and in Stature
and in Favor with God
and in Favor with Man”**

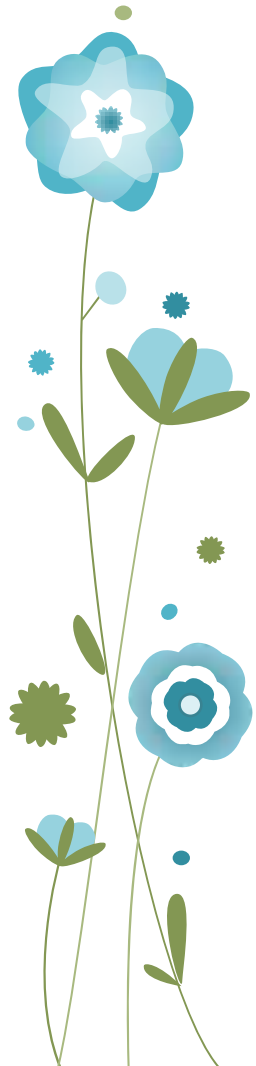
Luke 2:52



Teach to the Whole Child



Faith Development Research Says...



It is forged through powerful, positive and personal spiritual experiences.

The learning is through the “Senses”.

Parental involvement is crucial and KEY

Venue for a baby’s faith is the nursery room. It’s a breeding ground for future spiritual attitudes!

Infants should be viewed as “spiritual learners”!

Children are curious and love to explore their world.



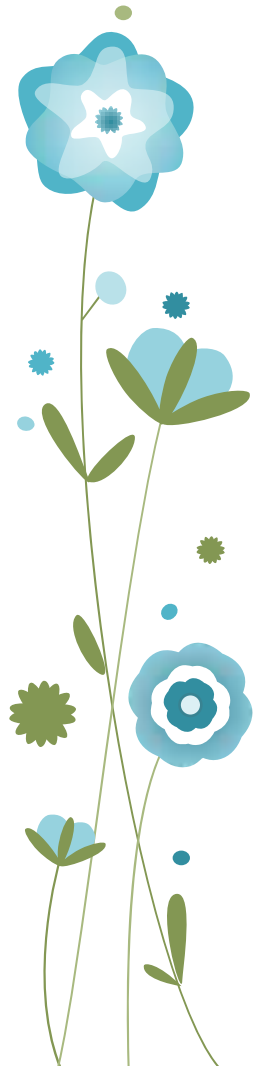
Spiritual Development of Young Children

A series of stages for faith development was developed by *Professor James W. Fowler.*

He proposed that a child will have several stages of faith or “spiritual” development that will occur throughout their life span.

His framework supports the work of Jean Piaget, Erik Erickson and Lawrence Kohlberg.

It follows the same pathways of early childhood development.

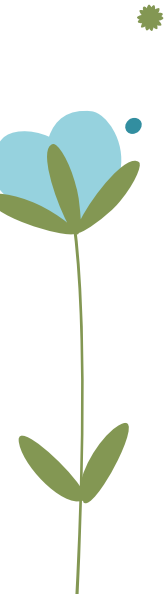
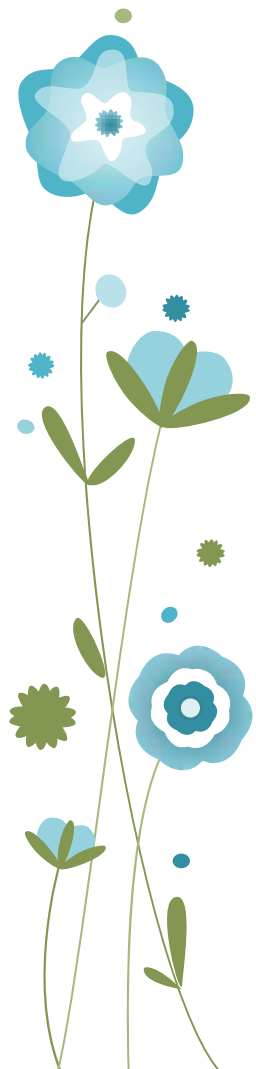


Let's Do This!

The Bible tells us to be “INTENTIONAL” in the way we are to teach...

It's described in God's Word.

It's what you have been called to do.



God's Plan for Children include:

Psalm 78

GOD

The Word

Teach

Know

Obey

Deuteronomy 6:7-8

Love GOD

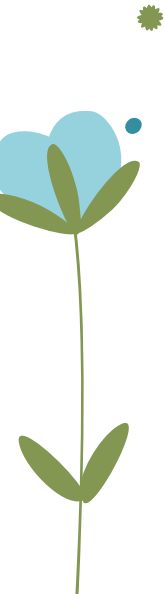
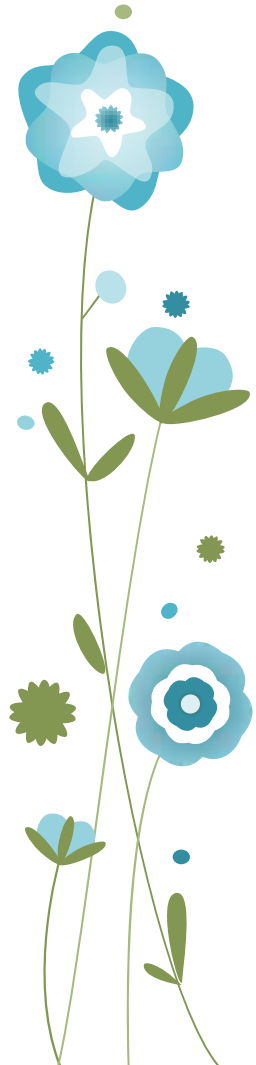
Put His Word in your hearts

Impress them on your children

Talk when you walk, and sit, in the morning and at night

Wear the WORD

Place it on the walls and doors



Show Them Jesus...



**In Learning
Centers**

**During
Transitions**

**During Circle
Time**

During Recess

**When they enter and
exit the classroom**

**During Snack Time
and Lunch**

During Nap Time



Play with them...



Blocks

Home Living

Puzzles

Music

Books

Science

Art

Table Toys

Washing Hands

Cleaning Up

**Walking to the
Playground**

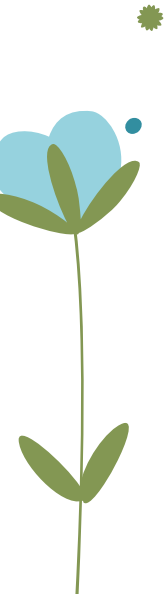
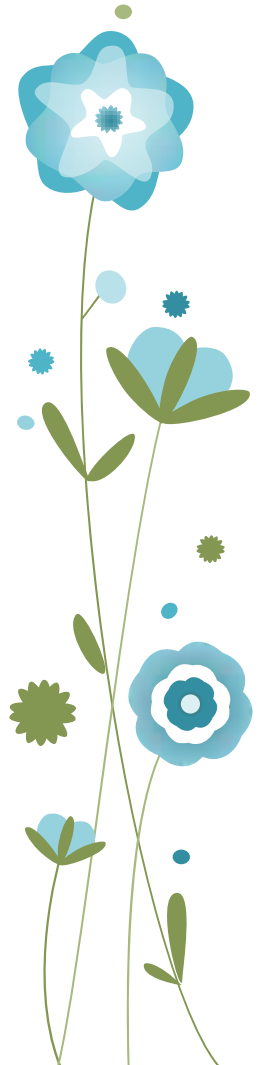
**Unpacking Lunch
Boxes**

Writing and Drawing



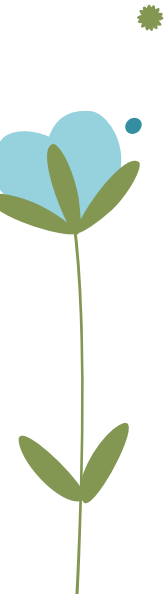
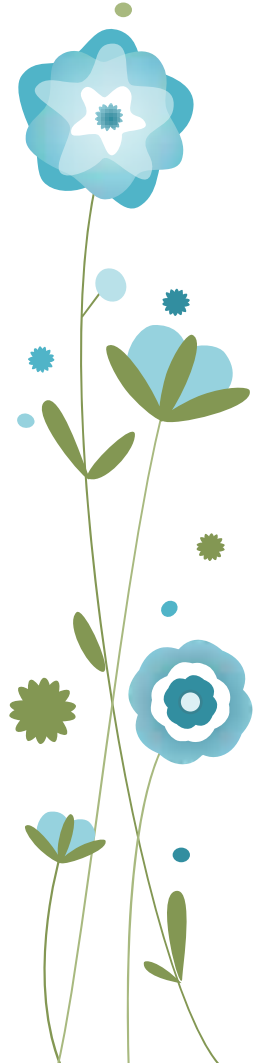
Tell Them...

- **They are unique and loved by God**
- **They are fearfully and wonderfully made.**
- **God's Word, The Bible, is a Special Book.**
- **Jesus is the Son of God, and He Loves each child.**
- **Church is a happy place.**
- **God made families.**



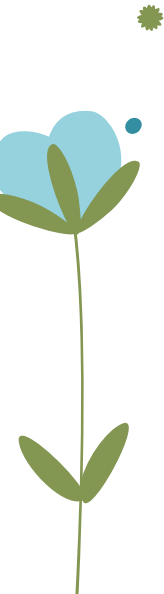
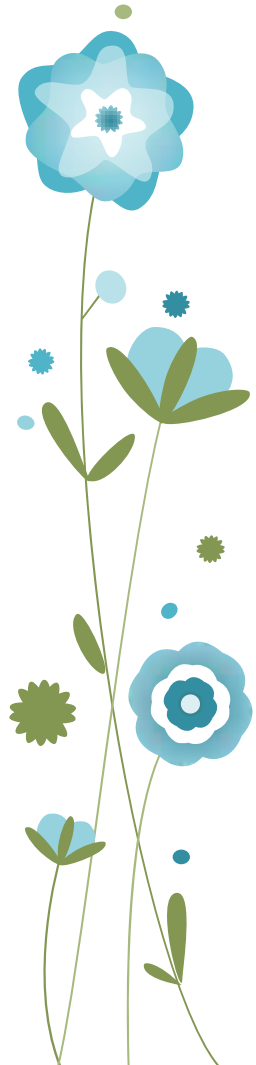
Pray for them!

- **Pray for their faith**
- **Pray for their character**
- **Pray for their safety**
- **Pray for their relationships**
- **Pray for their future**



Love Them!

**You should care for every child
as if you are literally caring for
Little Baby Jesus.**



So, let's review...



What is your mission?

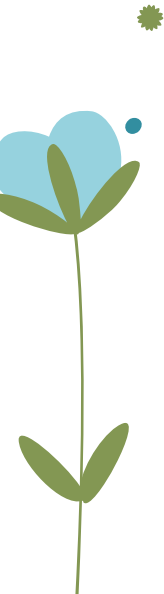
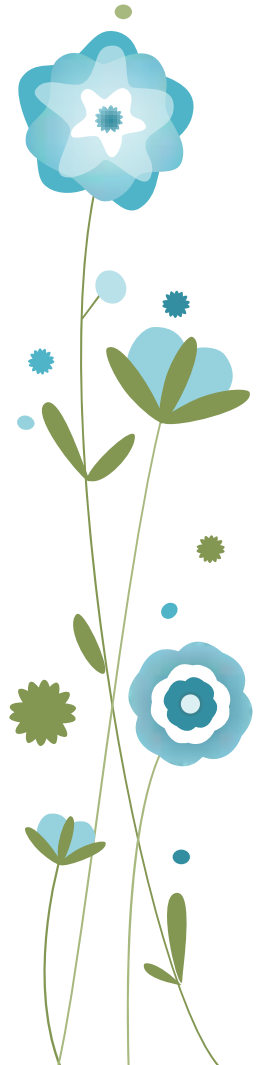
What will the children “LOOK” like when they leave your program?

Do the children in your program know YOU love Jesus?



In Conclusion, remember...

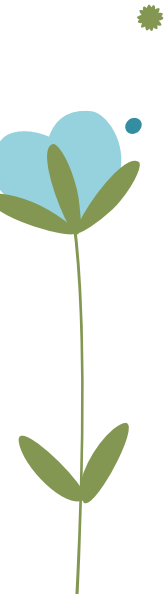
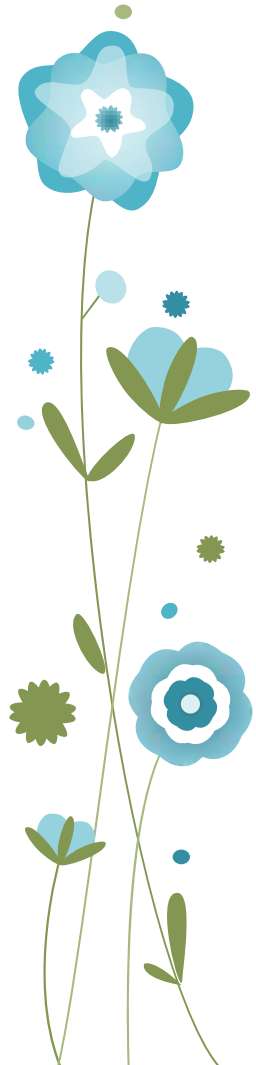
- **Children are close to God's heart!**
- **Being Christ is what we are all about!**
- **Time is SHORT!**



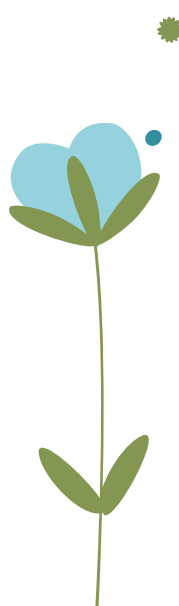
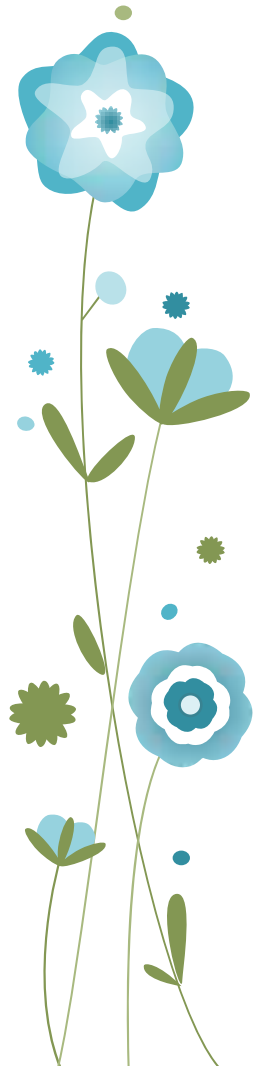
And most important...

It's not about a child learning to write his or her name, but it's about the child having their name written in the Lambs Book of Life.

Your job is to plant the seeds.



Laying the Foundation for Spiritual Foundations!



You are the church Monday – Friday!

