

Approaches to Learning

Children experience learning in different ways. In fact, teachers do too. Everyone has a favorite approach to learning. Here are the various approaches to learning.

LOGICAL Do you like to line up cars or blocks? Sequential games get you wired? Searching out what does not “fit” fits you? Then you are a logical learner. Patterns, problem solving, and step-by-step instructions help this learner the best. Now you know why Billy enjoys getting those blocks in just the right symmetry (equal on both sides).

MUSICAL I like to sing, tap to the rhythm, make sounds, and play instruments. I like to make up my own songs. I often find it easier to learn through music. Then you must be a musical learner. The sensitive teacher will understand when she asks, “What did David hear when he was tending the sheep?” why Angela exclaimed, “Baaaa! Baaaa!” as her response because Angela is a musical learner.

NATURAL You always find Jacob at the window. He laughs at the birds as they fly by. He can’t wait to get outside. The natural learner loves the outdoors. Hearing about God’s great creation always gets him excited. Teachers who bring non-poisonous plants, go on nature hikes, and provide books about nature will be a natural for these learners.

PHYSICAL Have you ever been told that if your hands were tied, you wouldn’t be able to talk? The physical learner must be moving in order to learn. While all preschoolers are mobile, physical learners must find movement in coordination with learning. Melinda often helps Miss Elizabeth tell the Bible story. She just has to be standing up, motioning, and acting the parts of the story. The wise teacher will allow for this movement realizing that when the physical learner is in motion, learning is also in motion.

REFLECTIVE Will often heads straight for the art or books area every week. His parents and teachers often wonder why he likes being by himself when so many are around him. But Will likes the quiet, self-paced areas of the room. Mr. Jack now realizes why Will seems to “check-out” when the class gets a little loud or an activity gets physical. Reflective learners get the most out of a lesson when they are given room and time to reflect on what they are experiencing.

RELATIONAL Do you have a child who is a socialite or one who has to be right up next to you at every moment? This child enjoys relationships and learns best when in a relationship. Alyssa often enjoys the home living area, especially when the baby dolls are available to dress and feed. She is the first to volunteer for a group activity, knowing that she will be able to be with her best friends Lauren and Amber. By the way, Alyssa is often the welcoming committee for new friends to the room; please do not get in her way.

VERBAL Jakin loves to read. In fact, he is already reading a level above his age group. He often likes to read the Bible story on the take-home leaflet to you before he leaves, stopping at any new word for you to give a definition. Verbal learners learn best through words. They may hear them, read them, or write them. They often excel when learning vocabulary. The next time you hear a 5 year old repeat what you just said, thank God that you said the right thing and realize that you have a verbal learner.

VISUAL Each week Emma asks if she can see the picture of today’s Bible story. Each week you tell her that you would rather wait until after the story to show her. But you have noticed that Emma pays better attention and answers your questions about the story if she sees the picture first. The visual learner loves to “picture” what she is learning. She may do this in her imagination or by making an art picture. In any case, the visual learner is “seeing” what she is learning.

Preschool Age Group Characteristics

I Am a Baby

- I am growing rapidly and becoming more mobile.
- I will begin crawling around eight months.
- I am dependent on you to meet all of my needs. I also am learning to trust.
- I enjoy exploring, especially with my hands and mouth. I love bright colors.
- I sense love by the way I am treated.
- I respond to your attitudes. As I get older, I want to interact with you (i.e. play games).
- I cry to let you know I have a need.

I Am a One-Year-Old

- I can understand more words than I can use. I can follow simple directions.
- I am very active, moving from one interest to another.
- I like to do things myself, but I still need help from you.
- I am curious about things and what they do.
- I have a short attention span.
- I am developing language skills. I frequently use the word *no*.
- I can say 5 to 50 words.

I Am a Two-Year-Old

- I am beginning to gain bladder control.
- I have a short attention span. I respond to distraction, not reasoning.
- I learn by doing and hearing something over and over.
- I play parallel to others.
- I am self-focused.
- I learn best when my firsthand experiences include the use of my five senses.

I Am a Three-Year-Old

- I often ask, “Why?”
- I have an active imagination.
- I am highly imitative of adults.
- I am beginning to take turns.
- I have some ability to reason.
- I have some finger control with small objects.
- I use sentences of three or more words.

I Am a Four-Year-Old

- I can control my hands and feet.
- I tell tall tales because of my vivid imagination.
- I think literally.
- I am learning “what’s mine.”
- I am a bundle of energy who needs freedom to move.
- I express myself well verbally.

I Am a Five-Year-Old

- I have a longer attention span.
- I participate in many activities during the session.
- I can dress myself completely.
- I insist, “I already know that.”
- I am developing my social skills and becoming more social.
- I like being part of group play, but sometimes I may prefer one friend.
- I enjoy planning projects before attempting them.
- I like to know how things work.

Putting It All Together

Complete the following information using the lesson assigned to your group:

- What is the Level of Biblical Learning?
- What is the Bible Truth?
- What is the Bible Phrase or Verse?
- What is the Life Application?
- Describe the Highlighted Activity:
- Identify the Approach to Learning from the 8 Approaches Identified Earlier:
- How will you make Life Application?

Preschool Missionary Sunday School— Additional Tools

Tools for Teaching Preschoolers:

- **Age Grouping Recommended Capacity:**

Age	Preschoolers	Leaders	Total
Babies–2s	9	3	12
3s–Pre-K	12	3	15
Kindergarten	16	4	20

- **Holman CSB ® Read to Me Bible for Kids (Preschool)**
Full-text Bible designed especially with preschoolers in mind. Filled with classic, four-color illustrations to draw preschoolers to their favorite Bible stories. Includes a section on spiritual development and highlighted verses and stories. Available for purchase at www.lifeway.com/kids.
- **The Levels of Biblical Learning™ Collection**
Includes a variety of options to enhance learning as each biblical concept area is taught: Quick Scene™ Bulletin Board Sets and Borders, Craft Packs, Stickers, Puzzles, Bookmarks, Memory Cross, Games, Postcards. Available for purchase at www.lifeway.com/kids.
- **Kids' Discipline 101**
A training guide and DVD designed to give leaders guidance in areas where behavior issues can be avoided before they even develop. A helpful resource for parents, too. Available for purchase at www.lifeway.com/kids.

Tools for Connecting to Parents of Preschoolers:

- **KISS Connection (Kids in Sunday School)**
A free weekly e-mail that connects parents to their kids' Bible study with ideas on how to reinforce Bible lessons throughout the week. To sign up go to [Facebook.com/lifetruths](https://www.facebook.com/lifetruths) and then click on "join my list" beneath the profile picture.
- **ParentLife**
This magazine equips parents to build strong, godly families, by focusing on the needs of the whole child from conception through the preteen years. Every monthly issue provides practical ideas and insights on health, education, discipline, safety, and spiritual development. Available for purchase at www.lifeway.com/magazines.
- **BabyLife**
This special issue of *ParentLife* is designed for churches to give on hospital visits to new parents, to new parents who visit the church, or at parent-child dedications for those unique spiritual events in the life of a family. Parents will find encouragement and biblical solutions to transform them into the parents God created them to be. Includes practical advice and information on their baby's development and care. Available for purchase at www.lifeway.com/magazines.