

# What do you love?



## Activity Spot

**Cooking:** Choose something to cook with the children that they will love, maybe including something with chocolate. Some suggestions might be 'chocolate crackles' or 'chocolate balls' or 'chocolate fridge cake' (these recipes can be found in the appendix). Talk with the children and parents about the things that they love to eat while making this together.

**Chinese restaurant:** In the home corner you might like to set up a Chinese restaurant (or a pizza shop or...); you can obtain a number of props from bargain shops or warehouses (e.g. The Reject Shop) such as bowls, chopsticks, cups, fabric serviettes etc. You could also use wool for noodles, cheap note pads and aprons for taking orders, and possibly going to a Chinese takeaway for some menus. Think with the children about how people eat different foods.

**What do you love?:** You can set up any activity for these two sessions, e.g. cars and car mat, train set or blocks etc. The focus comes with the language and the way that you engage with the children/parents and leaders at that activity. *'Is this one of the things that you love to do?' 'What activity do you love the most?' 'Why?'* The second week will need to focus a little more on how we love different things and that that is okay, *'Isn't that interesting that Jack loves playing with the blocks best and you love playing with the trains'.*

**Activities that they love:** Choose a number of activities that you know your children love to do e.g. playdough, blocks, running games etc. You could ask the children the week before to choose some of the activities that are going to be set out next week, or have some choices available on the day and ask children to help choose some of their favourites.

**With a twist:** Get the children to help you set up some activities that they love to do (e.g. sand, playdough, trains, cars, home corner). Change things just a little bit, e.g. use the playdough on a special mat on the floor rather than the table, make all the children drive the cars backwards in that area etc. While doing these activities, talk to children about what is different today about this activity.

## Game Spot

**Pick up blocks** – Big Duplo blocks would work best for this. Have as much Duplo as you can scattered on the mat in a designated area. Ask a child to choose a colour that they love. Give the children one minute to pick up as many blocks in that colour as they can. Count the blocks and cheer their efforts. You may like to play this a number of times with different children choosing the colour that they are going to pick up. You might need to alter the time limit depending on the number of blocks that you have and also the number of children.

**'Do this/Do' that or 'Simon Says'** – When explaining the game, tell the children when you say 'do this' we need to do the same thing as the leader and when you say 'do that' they need to do something different to what the leader is doing. Or you can play Simon Says, using language to reinforce difference (*'You did something different', 'That wasn't the same'* etc.).

## Creating Spot

**Cutting & Pasting:** Collect some magazines and catalogues that include things (people, places and items) that young children would love. Encourage the children to look for and find some things that they love or some things that they love to do. Talking with the children as they look through the catalogues is important in this activity: *'Why do you love to do that?' 'What do you love most about that person?'* Help the children to cut out and paste their person, place or item on their sheet, you might also like to write something about what they have chosen and why.



**Pasta Threading:** You will need to do some preparation for this activity. Choose a variety of different shapes and sizes of pasta that you can thread onto some string. Use food colouring to dye the pasta different colours (soak the pasta for a short time in food colouring and water, drain and dry ready for threading). You can use string (put a small piece of sticky tape on the end to help thread easily) or plastic cord which you can get from most craft shops. Cut lengths and tie one piece of pasta onto the end so that when the children start threading it will stay on the cord. Encourage the children to see how many 'different' colours, shapes and sizes they can thread onto their piece of cord.



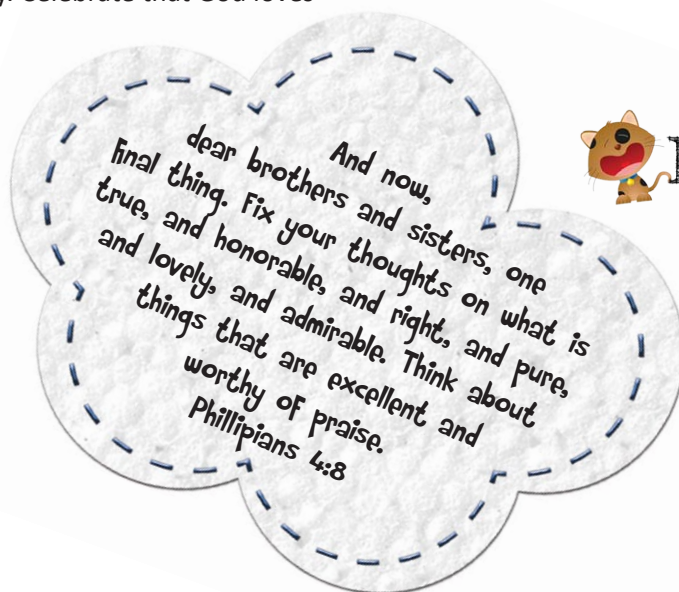
## Story Spot

**Edward the Emu** – This is a story about an emu that wants to be anyone else but himself at the zoo. He thinks that people come to visit the zoo to see all the other animals because they are better than the emu. At the end of the story Edward finds out that some people love to see the emus best when they visit at the zoo. We are all different and love different things. Ask the children which animal they love the most when they visit the zoo; get them to make the noise that that animal makes. Talk about how we all love different things and celebrate this diversity together.

**Edwina the Emu** – You might like to follow up in the second week with this story about Edwina the emu. Edwina tries her hand at lots of jobs to help support the 10 eggs that she has laid, explore with her as she seeks to find the best job for her. When you have finished the story you can explore with the children what job they would like to do and what they think they would be best at. Talk about how we are all different and are good at different things and that is okay. Celebrate that God loves all the special things about us.

**Object Story – Chocolate Chip Cookies** – Ask the children what their favourite cookies are. Ask them if they love 'chocolate chip cookies' because 'I have some for you'. In a basket, have the ingredients that you will need to make chocolate chip cookies—get some of the children to come out the front and hold the ingredients. (Let the children react to the fact that you have the individual ingredients and not the made cookies.) 'But we have chocolate chip cookies—we have chocolate, flour, butter etc.' Talk about how you need different ingredients in order to put together to create something yummy. Talk about how God has made each of us different, we like different things, we look different, sound different etc. If everyone was the same it would be pretty boring. 'There are different things about you that make you special but together at playgroup/kids church with all of the different people we have something pretty good.'

You could finish by making the cookies together if there is time in your program or have some already made to share at morning tea.



## Language

What do you love?

What is your favourite?

That is different...

You are special.

That's okay.

You are good at that.

I like that about you.





# Mat Time Spot

*The Wiggle Song*

*If you're happy and you know it*

*Dance, Shout and Sing*

*Tapping Feet*

*God Made Me*

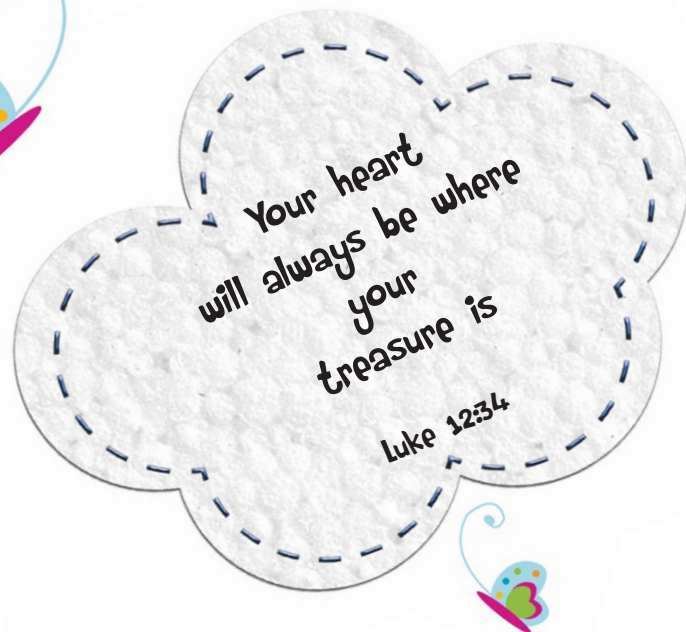


## Prayer Spot

Sit together in a circle and have a special item (e.g. squishy ball, stress ball, teddy) that you pass around. As each child/parent or leader holds the item they are to tell you one thing that they 'love'. You can then finish the prayer time by thanking God for all the things that we have that we love.

You can also extend this to have a second go and get each person on their turn to say one person that they love. Finish by saying thank you to God for all the people that we have that we love.

If you want to extend it further the following week, you can get each person to again name someone that they love but then add one thing about themselves that they love—highlighting at the end that God has created us all different so there are things that are different about each one of us. Finish by thanking God for how wonderfully he has made each of us.



## Take Home Spot

**Week 6:** As a family, plan an outing together. Talk about what each of you would love to do and with whom. As a family make a choice, or you may like to do all of the suggested ideas over a period of weeks. Reinforce that we all like to do different things, sometimes we can do what you want and then other times someone else will have their choice showing love and care for each other.

**Week 7:** Take a trip to the ice-cream shop or somewhere similar where you will need to make a choice. As a family talk about who chose what flavour and why, 'What was your favourite?' Reinforce with the children that we sometimes like different things and that is okay, we are all made unique by God and will have things about us that are different and things that we like and things that we like to do that will be different. Celebrate this and thank God for how he has made you.





## Extra Spots

You might like to have a special morning tea on one of the weeks—the children and families can be encouraged to bring along something that they love to eat, cut up and ready to share with their friends. With the focus for week six you can talk with the children about the things that they particularly love to eat and why, and for the focus for week seven you can talk about how the things we love to eat might be different from what others like.

You might like to have a special dress up theme for one day—come dressed in your favourite colour or the colours of your favourite football team or just coming wearing something that you love to wear no matter what it is. The children could share why it is their favourite during the session.



Childhood  
is about making  
discoveries

Jean Piaget

