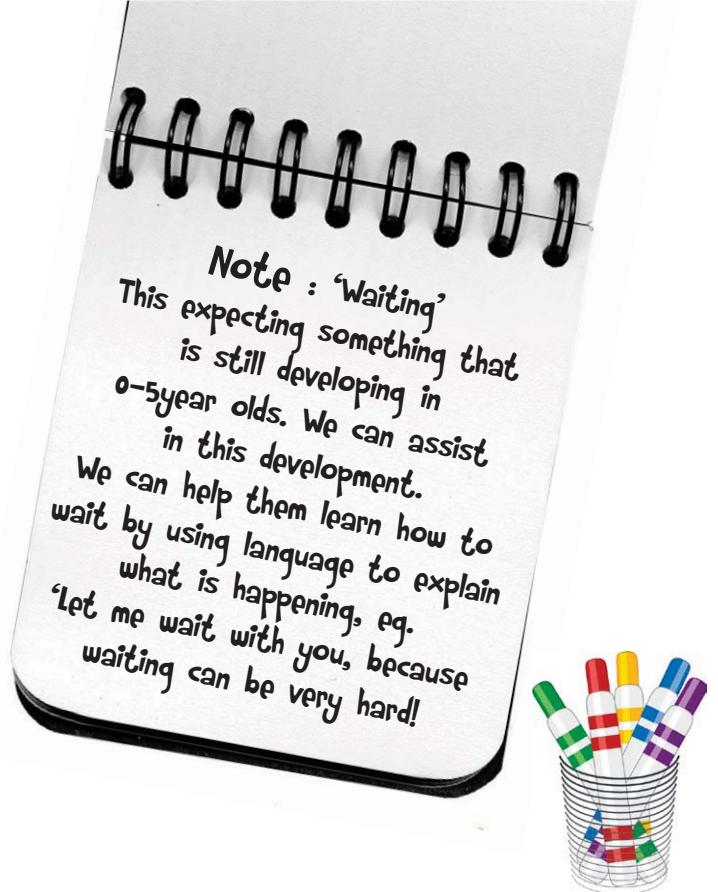


Who Loves You?



Book area: Among the books that you would put out for the children to read you might like to include books that focus on services such as the fire brigade, doctors, police, the dentist etc. Some suggestions are *Fireman Sam*, *Postman Pat* or *Pepper Pig*. *Charlie and Lola* are also good books to include when focusing on family and friends that love us.

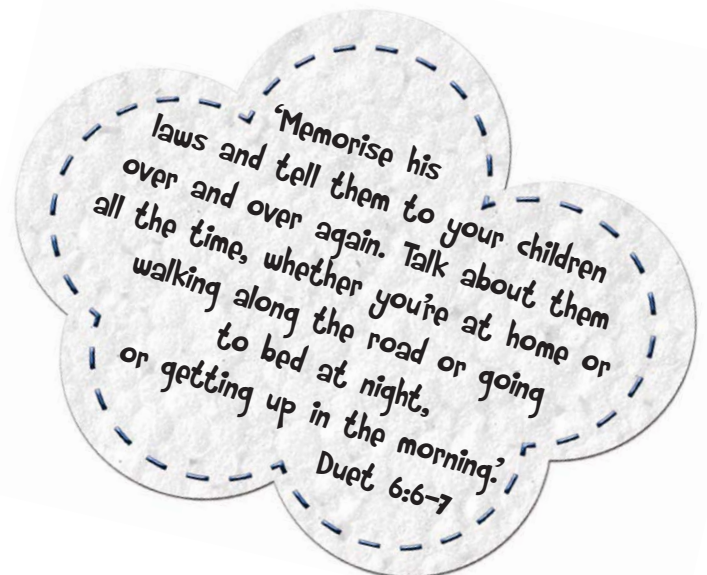
Activity Spot

Home Corner: You can provide the home corner for each of the three weeks and change the focus slightly as you explore each of the topics. Include such items as babies and clothes (encouraging experiences of nurture and care), dress-ups, food and tea sets (caring for each other) or you might like to change it from a home corner to represent a service, e.g. doctor or dentist, perhaps a fire engine (other people who care for us)

Working together activities: Seesaw: the kids need to work together to make a seesaw work. Blocks with a task: work with a group of children to build a train, fire engine, etc. encouraging them to work together.

Waiting activities: When you are little, waiting is hard but is something that we need to learn to show that we care for each other. Activities such as waiting for the slide, taking turns on the trampoline, waiting for a turn on the ride on car etc. are wonderful for developing patience and caring for others.

Drawing table: This can be put out each week and you might like to change the paper or drawing implements (crayons, pastels, pencils, charcoal, chalk). The language that you use to engage with the children is important in this activity, encouraging them to draw friends or people in their family that love them, services that care for them and also God who cares and loves them. You might like to put photos on the table to help the children focus on the topic for the day (use non-breakable frames or photos can be put on the table with contact over them), e.g. a photo of a family, a picture of friends, a picture of some services and images that show God's love.

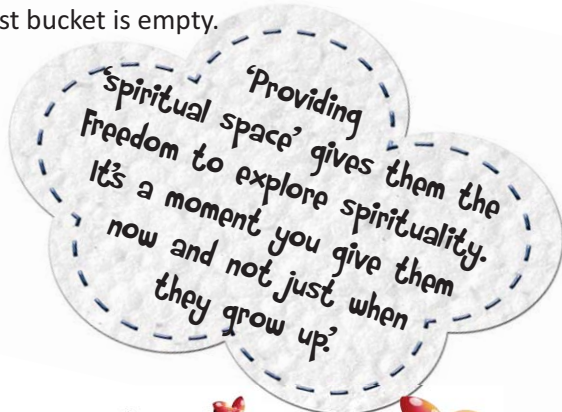




Game Spot

Tunnel Ball: Playing a game like tunnel ball helps with both working together and waiting for your turn. You could choose from a number of relay games to play.

Relays: Relays help with working together and waiting and you can choose from many combinations. Some suggestions would be weaving in and out of witches hats to the end and then running straight back to the next person, crossing the midline to help with development, placing the right hand onto the left knee and then the left hand on the right knee or you have a bucket full of balls at one end, take one ball at a time and run it down to the other end and place it into the empty bucket until the first bucket is empty.

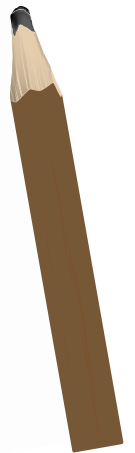
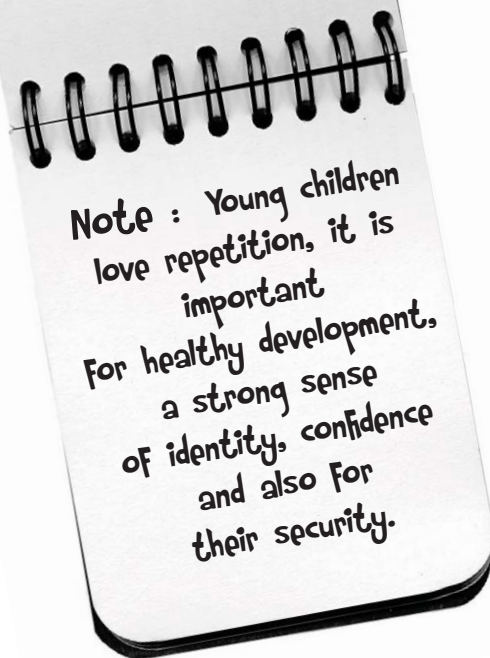


Creating spot

Week 3: Contact heart activity – Cut a large heart from either an A3 or A4 piece of cardboard and then on one side place the sticky side of a sheet of contact cut to fit the size of your card. Place the sticky side up so that the children can place the decorations on it. You might like to use cut out little hearts in lots of bright colours or just little squares of brightly cut paper. You also might like to add the letters ‘LOVE’. You can then display these hearts as a stained glass window. While doing this activity talk about ‘LOVE’, about the people who love you/them especially parent/s and family.

Week 4: Caring collage – You will need a range of newspapers, magazines and pictures that include services or people that care for us in the community (you may like to contact some of the services in your community for fliers, information or perhaps some stickers). Place a big piece of butchers paper on the wall/board and write a big ‘Thank you for...’ in the middle. Encourage the children, parents and leaders to cut and paste a range of pictures on the collage. While you are doing this, talk with the children about how these people/services care for us.

Week 5: Painting – How does God show he loves you? Talk with the children about what shows them that God loves them using language to help them explore what that might be, e.g. scribe and write on their painting.



Story Spot

Story books – There are a range of story books that you could read over these three weeks that include images and stories about love and caring for others. Some books that we would suggest are:

I Went Walking – ‘I went walking, I wonder what you see?’ is an example of the great language that is used in the book. When you have finished reading this you can talk about all the things that they saw in the book and then ask them about the things that they might see when they are out walking. ‘When you are out walking, I wonder what you will see?’

God Knows All About Me – This book has great illustrations and language that explores all the things that God knows about a young person. When finished, you could go through some of the areas of the book getting the kids to stand up and point and bend and act out the book, reinforcing that God knows all about them too; that God created and made each part of them.



Guess How Much I Love You? – This is a wonderful book that uses fabulous language about love and how much Big Nut Brown Hare and Little Nut Brown Hare love each other. This is a book that you can encourage the children, leaders and parents to be involved in both repeating phrases and doing some actions. When you have finished reading this you could ask the children about who they love and to show you how much they love them by repeating some of the actions in the story.

The Selfish Crocodile – This is a lovely book that shows how someone else can care for others even when they are not being very nice. After reading this, I would ask the children questions about how the crocodile would feel at certain times in the story and then also how the mouse would feel at particular points. You could also explore other ways that people care for each other.

Arnold the Prickly Teddy – This is a special story that looks at love. The little boy loves Arnold no matter what, takes him everywhere and doesn't even notice his prickles. A wonderful story of unconditional love. When you have finished this story you can ask the children if they have a special toy that they love and the special things that they do together. Reinforce that there are people that love and care for us like that, e.g. Mum, Dad, Grandma, God etc.

Cecil – The Lost Sheep (Powerpoint or Storybook) – this story shows how much God loves each one of us. There are notes in the cover of the book to help when sharing this story with children.

Object Story: Choose a couple of objects that you love, place them in a special box, gift bag or something that will conceal your objects. 'There are some things that I love in this bag/box – I wonder what they might be'. Explore this with the children thinking about some of the things that they love and what might be hiding inside. Bring out each of the items talking about why you love each of them (it might be a photo of your family). Depending on which week it is, you might like to focus a little more on that particular item, e.g. photo of family, photo or letter from friend or perhaps a cross to represent God and how much he means to you. Talk about how much each of these groups love them.



What does love look like?

What do you do to show love?

How do you know someone loves you?

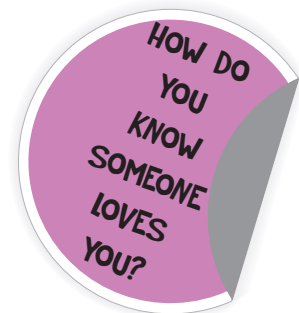
How do you care for your friends?

Nurture

Care

Feel

You are special.



It's so nice to have a cuddle

Seahorse rhyme – you are special to me

Dance, Shout & Sing

L.O.V.E (Hi5)

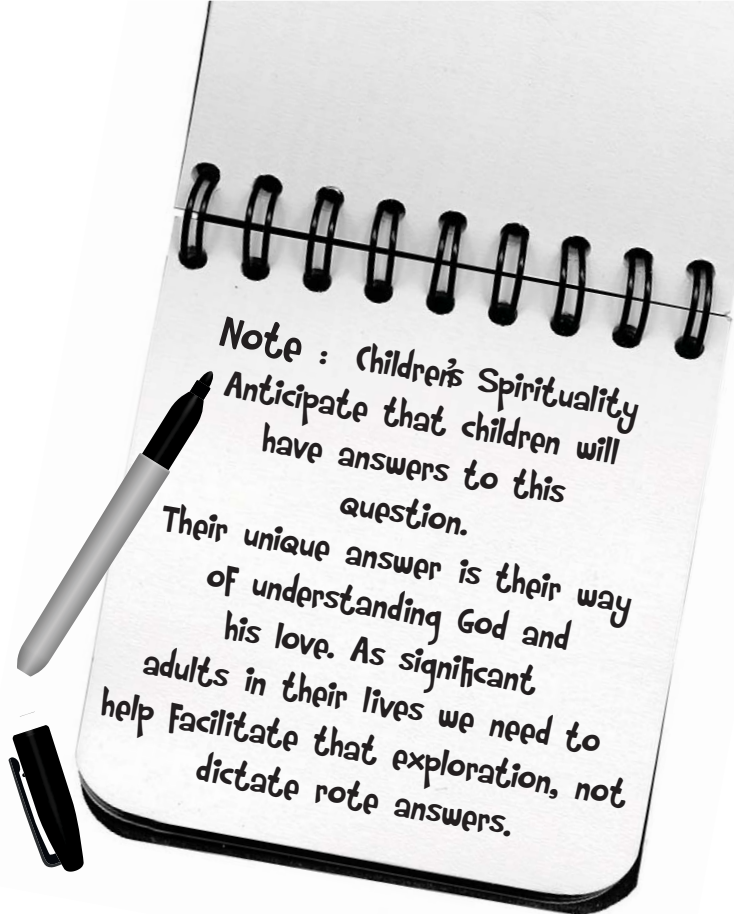
Miss Polly had a Dolly

The Wiggle Song

God will Care for Me

The Happy Dance





Take Home Spot

Week 3: Print out the take home card for week 3 that says 'Thank you for my family'. Encourage the families to talk about how they show each other that they love them and to draw on the card all the people that you love in your family.

Week 4: Print out the take home card for week 4 and encourage the families to talk about together some of the services in their community. They may like to go for a walk past one of those services, e.g. fire station, doctors, vets etc. and talk about who these people care for.

Week 5: Encourage your families to go back and talk about the people that love them from the last two weeks, family, friends and services. Because these people love us and care for us shows that God love us, he gives us special people that care for us, special people that can provide for us, cook us meals, give us somewhere to live and someone to love and hug.

Prayer Spot

For the next three weeks for the prayer spot we will be reading with the group *The Thank You Prayer*, using the same language and the same images will help to reinforce the topic each week.

At the end of the book when it says, 'I wonder what you will be thankful for today', explore with the children the three areas of people that love them and how we can be happy that we have them and that they love us.

Week 3 – our parents and family,

Week 4 – friends and services, and

Week 5 – God.



Extra Spots

You may like to bring a special focus into one of your weeks with a visit from people or a group that will highlight the topic. You might like to have a grandparent's morning tea where they can come and interact with the children as they participate in the activities of the day. You could also arrange a visit from the fire brigade, police or doctor if you like—this could just be a small part of the program for that day or you could add an extra week to the program and have a whole day focused on this particular service visit.

