

Description of Spots



Activity Spot

Activity spots are a whole group of different activities that you might like to use/set up at the beginning of your session. This gives the children, parents and leaders an opportunity to engage with the kids during free play while still being focused on the theme/topic. This is also a great opportunity to use some of the language that will reinforce the message for the day.

You might like to add some of your own activities that will fit in with the topic, the ones provided are just suggestions for you to use or they may spark some other ideas for an activity.

Not all the activities need to fit into the topic but it is important to have at least a few that will help to reinforce the message

Game Spot

The games that are provided in this spot can be used during mat time when everyone is together or they might be used if appropriate as an activity during the 'activity spot time'.



Creating Spot

The creating spot can be used at a number of different times within your program, either during the free play/activity spot time or it can be done together as a whole group once all the other activities are packed up either before or after your snack time.

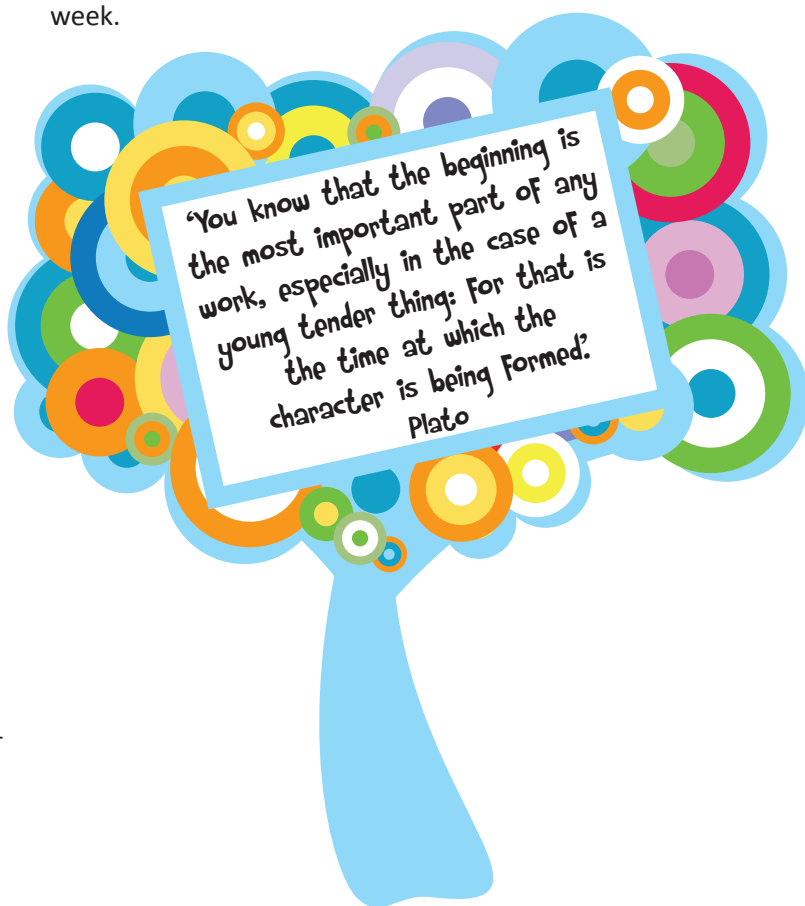
This creating spot is an activity that will give kids the opportunity to engage and explore with the topic for your particular session and possibly take something home that will help to remind them of the key message.

Story Spot

Kids love stories and there are many ways that we can share stories with little ones whether they be at play-group or kids church. We would encourage you to use a range of ways of telling your stories each week to provide variety. Having said that, I am sure that you realize how much young children love and feel comfortable with repetition. You could even repeat a short story or tell a short story that you could do a couple of times encouraging the kids, leaders and parents to be involved with the language, key messages, actions, rhythm or loud or soft words.

A couple of books will be suggested for you and the details of those books will be provided in the appendix. Depending on the age of your children and the length of the books, you might like to read over and decide on what are the key parts and paraphrase as you share the pictures together, helping to make connections for the children you have in your particular group. If you are reading a story it would be great to explore the message with the children afterwards by reinforcing key phrases, messages or asking some questions.

As well as books to read, there will also be some suggestions for you on other stories that you might tell with some props or objects to help share the message of each week.



Language

The way we speak and engage with young children is so important; they listen to everything that we say, repeat us and copy what we do. This section is to help leaders and parents to use positive, repetitive and age appropriate language that will engage the kids with the focus for that week. Trying to put the theme/topic/focus into short key phrases is a helpful thing for leaders and parents as well as the children.

Mat Time Spot

Mat time spot will probably include singing, dancing and movement, games, prayer and story, so in the material that is set out, mat time spot is specifically a list of some songs and movement that you can choose from to use during this time. The other elements are included in different 'spots'.

Under mat time spot there will be a range of song titles listed, for further details and information as to where to resource these from go to the appendix.

Prayer Spot

Prayer spot is an opportunity to help our children and their families to be thinking about what we can be thankful for, thinking about others and their needs and also to ask God for help with things that we might need. This is a nice way to draw the topic together at the end of 'mat time' before finishing your time together.

Take Home Spot

The take home spot is a way of helping and resourcing parents with ideas and language around the focus that the kids have engaged in either at playgroup or kids church today. Taking home the language will help to reinforce the message that they have interacted with during that session and create a tradition that shows talking about God doesn't only happen at church but that God is with us every day, in fact all the time.

You will find some templates in the appendix/resources section of this book for you to copy and send home with your families. It would be good to copy the template onto some card and encourage the families to stick this on their fridge/pinboard throughout the week.

Inspirational Bubble Spot

These little spots are to encourage you and remind you that the children in your care are 'precious gifts from God'. You have the privileged opportunity to influence their spiritual development. Never underestimate the importance of your interactions and conversations with them or the planning that you put into the program you run.



Note Spot

Throughout the material you will also find some notes that will help to give you information as to why some of the activities are placed in the program, the thinking behind them and a little bit more clarification.

Extra Spots

Throughout the material you may find a few extra spots that will suggest special dress up days, visits or special ways of developing your theme further for that week.

