

HOMELIVING CENTER

Through Homeliving Experiences, a child...

- Pretends to cook and practices thanking God for food.
- Pretends to be a family member and prepares for family life.
- Pretends to doctor a doll and practices biblical compassion.
- Plays various roles with friends and prepares for a lifetime of relationships.



Suggested Materials:

- **Infants** – clean, washable doll; safe, non-breakable mirror.
- **Ones** – doll bed, child-sized rocking chair, blanket.
- **Twos** – child-sized stove, sink, table, chairs.
- **Threes–Pre-K** – chest of drawers, doll clothes with easy fasteners.
- **Kindergartners** – detailed props (dress-up tools, food packages, writing materials).

💡 No budget? Use creativity!

- Transform cardboard boxes into stoves, sinks, or doll beds.
- Bring safe kitchen items from home (pan, spoon, towel).
- Repurpose margarine tubs as bowls and lids as plates.
- Collect empty food boxes.

Homeliving Tips:

- Keep a Bible nearby.
- Place the homeliving center in a corner visible from the door.
- Post allergy notices when tasting foods.
- Try recipes first before introducing them in class.
- Avoid unsafe foods (e.g., popcorn, whole grapes, hot dogs, nuts, raw carrots, marshmallows, peanut butter.)
- Listen often and encourage conversation.

VALUES of HOMELIVING

Physical

- Develops large & small muscles, eye-hand coordination.
- Allows relaxation and energy release.
- Builds body awareness and practical skills (pouring, stirring, cleaning).

Mental

- Encourages problem-solving and decision-making.
- Strengthens verbal and nonverbal communication.
- Supports symbolic thinking and world understanding.

Social/Emotional

- Promotes cooperation, sharing, and role-taking.
- Builds conflict-resolution and negotiation skills.
- Strengthens peer relationships and emotional expression.
- Encourages confidence and security.

Spiritual

- Creates space for Bible conversations and truths.
- Reinforces values such as kindness, cooperation, and family.
- Helps children internalize spiritual lessons through play.

How to Select Dolls:

- Are durable and washable.
- Have molded/painted hair and painted eyes.
- Contain few movable parts.



What Ages Can Enjoy Learning in Homeliving?

- Infants – enjoy simply touching a doll.
- Ones – delight in putting a doll “to bed.”
- Twos – rock and hug a doll.
- Threes – dress, undress, and pretend to care for a doll.
- Fours & Pre-K – role play a variety of family and community scenarios.
- Kindergartners – create deeper, more detailed play experiences (e.g., hospital nursery).

What does Homeliving offer Boys?

- Opportunities for movement and large-muscle play.
- Practice in conversation and communication.
- Pretend-care experiences that model fatherhood and compassion.
- Role-play opportunities that encourage expressing feelings in words.
- Balanced family play that includes both male and female roles.



Adapted from Teaching Preschoolers: First Steps Toward Faith by Sanders & Bradberry, LifeWay Press, 2000