

PICTURES



Through Pictures, a child...

Reading a Picture is an active experience in which a child may see new things, interpret past experiences, or consider what could happen in another situation.

Using Pictures to Teach

- Read a Bible verse and let children choose a picture that matches its meaning.
- Display family photos and invite children to share or find pictures of activities they enjoy at home.
- Use pictures to explain customs and daily life in simple, age-appropriate terms.
- Sing a song and let children select a picture that relates to the words.
- Arrange story pictures in order and encourage children to retell the story.
- Play music while children walk around viewing displayed pictures; ask them to find or describe specific ones.
- Create matching picture cards for a memory game.
- Turn Bible story pictures into simple puzzles (magnetic pieces, Velcro boards, or laminated cutouts).
- Place a Bible or everyday picture on the floor and invite children to draw or dictate something about it;

Picture Sources:

- Family and classroom photographs
- Leader guides
- Calendars and postcards
- Children's books
- Digital printouts from safe, copyright-free sites (Unsplash, Pexels, Pixabay)
- Educational resources and curriculum visuals
- Grocery store ads, packaging, and displays
- Artwork created by the children themselves

VALUES of USING PICTURES

Pictures are indispensable for enriching experiences for young children about the Bible, God's creation, self, community, God, Jesus, church, family, and the world.

- Pictures help children recognize familiar people, places, and things.
- Pictures connect children to real-life situations and environments.
- Pictures offer substitute experiences when direct ones aren't possible.
- Pictures spark conversations and reveal how children view the world.
- Pictures show children doing activities they can relate to.
- Pictures create an atmosphere of worship and point children to God.
- Pictures inspire children to tell or create stories.
- Pictures encourage positive behavior by modeling kindness and cooperation.
- Pictures strengthen sequencing, sorting, and classification skills.
- Pictures nurture curiosity and exploration.

Displaying Pictures:

- **For Younger Preschool** – place pictures in cribs or on the floor for easy access.
- **For Older Preschool** – place pictures at eye level; create themed displays or use binder rings to create picture books

💡 **Types of Pictures to Display:**

- Family & Community Pictures
- Daily Routine Pictures
- Learning & Thematic Pictures
- Faith & Character-Building Pictures
- Cultural & Diversity Representation
- Child-Created Pictures
- Inspirational & Positive Behavior Pictures



Rotate Pictures regularly so they stay fresh and meaningful. Place them at a child's eye level where preschoolers can engage with them directly.

Adapted from Teaching Preschoolers: First Steps Toward Faith (Thomas Sanders & Mary Ann Bradberry, LifeWay Press, 2000) and updated with current early childhood ministry practices, 2025.