

Ages 7-8

God's Word			
Cognitive	Nurturing Implications		Additional Tips For Home
<p>Attention span of 20 minutes or more</p> <p>Begin to think logically</p> <p>Rules: Right and Wrong</p> <p>Think concretely</p> <p>They can make connections with what happened in the past and project what may happen in the future</p> <p>Recognize that others have views different from their own</p> <p>Learning to write</p> <p>Time and space concept expanding beyond the here and now</p>	<p>Keep learning segments to 20 minutes or less.</p> <p>This is a good time to teach and reinforce Christian ethics.</p> <p>Do not introduce abstract concepts.</p> <p>Keep to things children can observe with the senses.</p> <p>Begin practical application of Bible stories to life.</p> <p>Begin group work.</p> <p>Children will still have very limited reading and writing skills.</p> <p>Children can just begin to grasp that the Bible stories happened a long time ago.</p>	<p>At this age children can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Grasp a basic knowledge of major events and some teachings of Jesus. * Enjoy stories of major Old and New Testament characters. * Be introduced to a simple study of sacraments. * Locate Old and New Testaments, Psalms and Four Gospels. * Read a Bible reference (Book, chapter and verse). * Begin to read an age appropriate Bible. 	<p>Now is a good time to let children read from an age appropriate Bible. *NIV, NRSV, KJV, NKJ, NLT are all written at too high a level for this age child. The International Children's Bible or the NIRV are written at a more appropriate age level.</p>

*NIV – New International Version
 NRSV – New Revised Standard Version
 KJV – King James Version
 NKJ – New King James
 NLT – New Living Translation
 NIRV – New International Readers Version

Ages 7-8

Relationships			
Social/Emotional	Nurturing Implications		Additional Tips for Home
<p>May gravitate toward friendships with same-sex peer groups</p> <p>Sensitive to criticism and ridicule</p> <p>Need to know they can do things well</p> <p>Aware of current social issues but unable to cope with all the implications</p> <p>Understand right and wrong actions</p> <p>Act according to their interpretation of the rules laid down by parents or teachers to avoid punishment</p> <p>Moral understanding related to quantity rather than intention</p> <p>Can understand physical pain they cause another but not psychological pain</p>	<p>Provide opportunities for children to interact with both sexes.</p> <p>Seek to encourage often.</p> <p>Discipline the action. Do not put down the child.</p> <p>Listen to and then assure children of God's love and presence as well as your own when they are concerned about current social issues.</p> <p>Model Christian social attitudes towards all people.</p> <p>Consider visiting a church which is primarily made up of a different ethnicity.</p>	<p>Begin to instill a wider kingdom view which includes people of all ethnicities and cultures.</p> <p>This is the beginning of a child's understanding of how to "fit in".</p> <p>It is important that we help each child know she/he is important to God and that God desires to have a relationship with her/him and invite him/her into the kingdom.</p> <p>It is also a time when children are beginning to seek their place in the church. Consequently, we need to give them opportunities to grow and serve in the church.</p>	<p>Praise and encourage your children for who they are as much as for what they do.</p> <p>Your involvement in the church body will greatly affect theirs both now and in the future.</p> <p>The more visually present your relationship with God, the more your children will be ready to grow in their relationship with God.</p> <p>Children this age are beginning to watch who you spend time with so they will know who they should interact with.</p>

Ages 7-8

Outward Action: Service and Mission			
Physical	Nurturing Implications		Additional Tips For Home
<p>Increased small muscle coordination</p> <p>Girls tend to grow faster than boys</p> <p>Attempt mastery of basic physical skills</p> <p>Enjoy athletic activities</p> <p>Want to participate rather than watch</p>	<p>This age is ready to take on more intricate craft projects. You will have to carefully show them how even though they will want to jump right in.</p> <p>Blending active with quiet activities is still a good idea at this age.</p> <p>Group projects are now possible and should be encouraged.</p> <p>Service projects are great for this age because they would rather be doing something rather than just listening.</p>	<p>Service ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Make something for others * Visit nursing home * Serve as an usher * Write a note to a missionary * Collect or purchase items for the needy * Help with set up or pick up at church 	<p>Touch continues to be an important component for parenting. Back rubs, hugs and wrestling are all ways of affirming your child.</p> <p>This is a good time to begin teaching children the importance of giving of their time, talent and money to God.</p>

Ages 7-8

Worship		
Spiritual	Nurturing Implications	Additional Tips for Home
<p>Able to sense the presence of God</p> <p>Open to learning about God</p> <p>Can become familiar with hymns and Bible verses</p> <p>Can understand forgiveness</p> <p>Have questions about God and heaven</p> <p>Believe God hears their prayers and answers them</p> <p>Enjoy participating in worship</p>	<p>We must remember that worship is more than head knowledge. However, it is a good time to begin teaching children what worship is about and why we do the things we do.</p> <p>Provide children many opportunities to worship with both children and adults.</p> <p>Spend time praying. Guide them through prayers of praise, confession, petitions, requests, and thanksgiving. But divide these up in-between other worship elements.</p> <p>Check vocabulary on responsive readings.</p> <p>Offer opportunities to sing in a choir.</p>	<p>Remember these children can begin to read the words you put up on a screen, but often cannot see it. Print out the words for children as well.</p> <p>Can understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Who God is * God's Character * The concepts of sin, salvation and need for God * Basic knowledge of major events and some teachings of Jesus * Stories of major Old and New Testament characters * Simple study of sacraments
		<p>Children this age need acceptance and encouragement.</p> <p>Help them to find their place in the Bible or hymnal during worship.</p> <p>Continually strengthen their self-image as children loved by God.</p> <p>Remind children that the focus of worship is God.</p> <p>Hold hands while praying.</p> <p>Begin to share high points and low points and lift those up to God in prayer either at the dinner table or at bed time.</p> <p>Remember that spiritual nurturing involves all that we say, think and do throughout the day.</p>