

## **2–4's Programme**

This age group generally has a short span of concentration, so having activities that last no longer than 10 minutes is helpful.

### **Programme:**

**1 WELCOME** with a scripture song or something appropriate

**2 OPENING ACTIVITY**

Gather the children together for an activity to prepare them for the story.

This can be flexible depending on the story;

It needs to be a time where parents can easily leave children in a non-threatening environment;

May be a Group Activity where children work together on making something to introduce the story for the day;

OR

An individual activity (craft) related to the story which the children can take home.

**3 ACTION SONGS**

This gives children a break from sitting and concentrating.

Choose a variety of songs to give physical activity and help with excess energy;

Songs such as: Ring a Rosie, Here is the beehive, Dingle Dangle Scarecrow, Here we go round the Mulberry Bush etc.

**4 SNACK TIME**

Before beginning to eat sing or say a Grace together.

Encourage the children to be thankful to the one who serves them.

Children can be given a simple snack such as small biscuits, sultanas and a drink.

**5 STORY FOR THE WEEK**

Using a book with pictures, flannelgraph or action scene to tell the story.

**6 SONGS AND PRAYER**

Sing again the song used at the beginning, as well as other appropriate scripture songs.

Musical instruments, e.g. shakers, bells can be used at this time.

Encourage participation.

Then a short prayer giving thanks.

**7 CLOSING ACTIVITY**

As it will soon be time for the parents to pick up their child organise a simple activity such as a colouring sheet related to the story, playdough, puzzles, flash cards etc.

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A note-book is kept where the songs, number of children and the activity is recorded for the teacher next week. This enables the teachers to see the songs and activities that have been used over several weeks and provides for continuity of lessons.