

Compass Bible Church
Compass KIDS

Characteristics of Children
1st & 2nd Graders

Because 1st & 2nd graders are like this:

Physically

Full of energy and active but growing at a slower rate. Small motor skills are developing. Girls are ahead of boys in small motor development. Willing to try most anything after overestimating their own abilities. Easily distracted. Easily catch childhood illnesses.

Mentally

Eager to learn therefore likes to write and read. Enjoys games involving words and numbers. Thinks in concrete terms, beginning to develop reasoning skills. Likes both fact and fantasy. Has good imagination. Has ability to memorize. Attention span 10-15 minutes.

Socially

Desires to please the teacher. Acceptance by peer group is important. Wants to make friends. Dislikes criticism. Winning and being first are important. Self-centered, taking turns is difficult. May try to dominate social situations. Likes to talk.

Emotionally

Easily excited. Experiencing new and intense feelings. Moves between emotional extremes. May have difficulty controlling behavior. May resist personal demands. Shyness and fear can be overcome with familiar surrounding and routine.

Spiritually

Beginning to understand concepts about God's love, creator, his greatness, but has difficulty with not seeing a physical presence. Has faith in prayer. Has questions about death and heaven.

Teach them like this:

Put lots of activity into your teaching. Allow for plenty of movement involving a variety of motor skills. Provide opportunities for slower spaced activities and rest as the child still tires easily.

Teach them like this:

Provide opportunities to write and read. Avoid forcing a child to read as reading skills are just developing. Provide Bible games involving words and numbers. Avoid symbolism. Distinguish between fact and fantasy. Teach memory verses. Change pace several times during the hour using a variety of activities.

Teach them like this:

Provide non-competitive activities when child can interact with others with minimal amount of criticism. Provide opportunities to take turns. Show equal amounts of attention and praise to each child. Praise the group as they work well together

Teach them like this:

Maintain a calm atmosphere in the class and be calm yourself. Establish boundaries and guidelines for the class and review weekly with the class. Never let an activity get out of control. Teach cooperation and obedience.

Teach them like this:

Help the child see God in nature, in answered prayer and modeling faith in God in your own actions. Provide opportunities for prayer and acknowledge answered prayer. Be sensitive to the developing spirituality in a child but do not "play on emotions" to lead a child to Christ. Answer questions openly and honestly as they arise keeping in mind the child's limitations in grasping concepts that are not concrete.