

# Starting Steps



## At This Age

Being a polite listener is not a skill that two year olds have developed yet. Their bodies contain too much energy to be still very long. Here are some tips to help teach your child listening skills:

- Read aloud stories that your child enjoys.
- Once in a while, carry on whispered conversations to help train his ears to concentrate on your words.
- Play a game where your child repeats your words back to you.

## Faith Activities for Families with Toddlers

*Starting Steps* is for families to use at home. It encourages you in your faith-journey and parenting. Use the ideas here and on the *Starting Steps* calendar throughout the week to extend and reinforce what your child learned.

## Time with God

Have you ever spent so much time talking with your child that you forgot to listen to what he or she was saying back to you? It can be hard to understand the words sometimes. In the same way, you may be talking to God without listening for His response. Jesus said,

*It is written in the Prophets:*

*"They will all be taught by God."*

*Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me.*

*John 6:45*

Spend more time listening to God than asking Him for things. He has great things to tell you.

## Toddler Tickler

### "Bible Training"

Our 1 1/2-year-old daughter Rachel is reluctant to talk. My husband and I have tried to coax her by finding pictures of animals and babies. Looking through the latest issue of a Christian magazine, Rachel pointed out the babies, patting her chest and saying, "Ba-ba." I turned the page to see a picture of a Bible. Rachel recognized the Bible. However, she just raised her hand in the air and said nothing. At Sunday school, we raise our hands to show we brought a Bible. Rachel had seen this so many times, it was second nature to her.

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# Time with Your Toddler



## Interactive Bible Story based on 1 Samuel 3:1-10.

One night Samuel was in bed.

"Samuel, Samuel," he heard.

*(Cup hands around ears.)*



Samuel told Eli, "Here I am." But Eli hadn't called.

"Samuel, Samuel," he heard again.

*(Cup hands around ears.)*

Again Samuel told Eli, "Here I am." But Eli hadn't called.

"Samuel, Samuel," he heard again. Who called?

God called. Samuel listened to God.

*(Cup hands around ears.)*



We hear God's words in the Bible. We can listen to God.

These questions can be used to help your child review the Bible story.

1. Who listened to God? (Samuel)
2. Who can we listen to? (God)

*Look what I made!*



Today your child colored with chalk on paper. As you talk with your child about his masterpiece, talk about the different colors.