



BABES&TOTS

Your role is important

The Flow for the Morning

All these timings are approximate and suggestions or guidelines rather than hard and fast rules but consistency across the weeks will help children feel comfortable even as the personnel changes.

9:40	be in the room to pray & prep for the morning's activities and snack
9:45	sign in begins for 18m and up begin with singing as it's an easy activity to join as they arrive
10:10	story
10:20	snack
10:30	craft and activity options
10:40	sign in begins for under 18m be ready to receive little ones play with them pray for them
11:20	clean up have the older children help with this
11:25	singing

Roles for Team Members for the Morning

Everyone's job is to be present with the children, attentive to them and playing with and praying for them. On top of that there are some things that need to be done through the morning.

The team for each week should work out who will do each of these things:

Check in & safety at the door - stay near here the whole morning

Snack set up - bring one kind of fruit already cut up, get water and set up snack (fruit & fish)

Snack clean up - clean tables while singing is happening & after wash cups/bowls

Story teller - there is story telling material for you to use

Crafty person - choose a craft to do with the little ones - there is lots of stuff in the bins that you could use, see list in the room or explore Pinterest for ideas

Song leader - CD with four songs on it, sing along and engage kids, everyone else will help you too.

Activity leader - choose an activity from the back of the story card or the Tippy Towers and Boo Blankets book to do with the children in small groups through the free play time, some activities may take a little preparation



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Your role is important

What are we teaching and learning in Babes&Tots?

It may seem strange to think that you are teaching and the children are learning at this young age, aren't you just holding them and playing with them?

Well yes, you are and through that they are learning some really valuable life long lessons that will build a foundation for faith in these precious little people.

As you love them you teach them that church is a place of love and that God loves them.

As you keep them safe and warm and happy you teach them that church is a place of safety and that God can be trusted.

You are helping to build a foundation for faith.

Never call yourself a baby sitter, you are doing something much more important than that!

Pray for each child

As you hold a child pray for them.

Sing them the truth

Children love to be sung to, even by the least confident singer. They are happy that you are giving them attention. Look them in the eye and sing away.

Tell them the truth

As you read the bible find promises that you can speak over these children when they are in your care.

Play, play, play

Babies are learning all the time. Play is a great way for them to learn and they will enjoy the interaction with you at the same time.

Bottom line

Always ask the parents how you can best serve their child that day AND pray and ask God for wisdom in caring for this little person that He loves. Ask their parents and ask God how you can pray for these precious little people and then do it.



BABES&TOTS

safety and care

Sign in and sign out

Up to 18 months:

Sign in will be after announcements during the coffee time down in the room. Keep your little ones with you through worship.

18 months to all 2 year olds:

Sign in will be from 9:45am down in the room.

For both age groups:

Give the name tag to parents to pin to the back of their child and remove the security number from the back of the tag for the duration.

Sign out will happen at the door to the room. Parents must return security numbers to you before you find the child and put the number back in the tag, remove the tag and bring the child back to their parent. Another trusted adult may collect the child if they have this number. This allows the parent who checked in to receive prayer if they need to at the end of the meeting

Safety for you and the children

For our safety and security it is important that we have at least two team members, one of whom should be an adult with children at all times. You should never be in the situation of being the only adult in the room. Please watch out for each other and keep your eyes open as you are working in the room

Diapers

Children at this age are all wearing diapers.

You will never have to change a child's diaper. If a child needs a change of diaper or clothing during the meeting please ask the leader in the room to call the parents from the hall to come and change their child.

Potty training - taking children to the bathroom

There may be occasion for a child who is potty training needing to go to the bathroom. If this happens please go in a pair and take a small group of children at a time as this is a more efficient use of your time than one at a time. Please use the disabled washroom and help children as necessary with their clothing, wiping etc, always ask them if they need help, don't assume that they do.

Feeding

If a child comes with a bottle or a snack make sure it has their name on it and you get instructions from the parent as to if and when you should give them this.



BABES&TOTS

settling children, part 1

Suggestions for helping children dealing with separation anxiety

Most young infants make a smooth transition into the BABES room. However, some babies experience separation anxiety at about six to eight months of age, even if before then they may have settled easily. This is a healthy, natural part of growth and simply means that the baby has bonded with their parent and wants to be with them and feels secure with them. Trust has developed between them. If a child becomes upset as their parent is leaving this can be difficult for the parent and the child.

A few ideas to try if this happens

- be calm, confident and friendly, lots of smiles
- greet the parents warmly and cheerfully
- ask to hold the baby while you continue talking to the parent so the baby gets comfortable with you while their mom or dad is still there
- ask parents about their child's favourite toys and activities
- reassure the parent that you will take good care of their baby

Crying

Parents have different tolerances for the length of time we should let a baby cry before we call them, it would be good to check with each parent as they sign in as to how long to keep trying before we call them.

Bottom line

Always ask the parents how you can best serve their child that day AND pray and ask God for wisdom in caring for this little person that He loves. They may have special instructions for you regarding toys they like or things that they like to do at this stage of their development.



BABES&TOTS settling children, part 2

Help, I've got a child who is upset what do I do?

Pray and remember you are not on your own

- ask someone on your team to help you out
- ask the leader in the room to get the parents (after you've tried these things)

Try giving the child indirect attention

- explain just the once that mom will be back soon then don't mention her again
- hold the child and find something to play with, you play with it, they may be drawn to play with it too - let them come to you
- hold the child but go about doing other things and seeing to other children

Try distracting them

- use a toy
- use a mirror
- use another child
- use another grown up
- use what you can see outside the window

Try acting silly

- act startled or surprised by something
- pretend that a toy is startled or surprised by something
- act dumb - they love to be smarter than you
- e.g. pointing to a dog say, "I love this elephant, it's not an elephant? oh, that's right, it's a rhino" etc...
- act silly, anything that gets a kid laughing
- some laugh if you fake hurting yourself
- some laugh if you sound funny, look funny

Pray some more

Bottom line

Always ask the parents how you can best serve their child that day AND pray and ask God for wisdom in caring for this little person that He loves. They may have special instructions for you regarding toys they like or things that they like to do at this stage of their development.



Themes & stories for a year

Month	Theme	Story	Bible
September	God made me	Creation	Genesis 1:1
October	God is with me	Noah & the Ark	Genesis 7:1-5
November	God keeps me safe	David & Goliath	1 Sam 17:45-50
December	Jesus is born	Christmas	Luke 2:5-7
January	God gives me food	Boy shares his lunch	John 6:5-11
February	God takes care of me	Jesus calms a storm	Matthew 8:23-27
March	Jesus loves me	Easter	John 20:10-16
April	God loves me	Hannah prays for a baby	1 Sam 1:15-20
May	I can help	Four friends help a paralyzed friend	Matthew 9:1-2
June	Jesus is my friend	Jesus welcome the children	Mark 10:13-14