

Appendix 2:

Under 5s



Create a space for the under 5s which is part of the holiday club but also a safe place for them to play and explore the themes.

If you do have under 5, then encourage them to be part of the stories each day, where possible. Have some simple games or action songs for them to play with. For example:

- Ring a ring a roses
- In and out the dusty bluebells
- Head shoulders knees and toes
- Teddy bear teddy bear touch your toes, etc.

The following activities are to explore the themes. You can also have some things such as Duplo, large building bricks, some playdough, crayons and paper and some small world figures to play with. Try to use natural materials for them to explore too, and to avoid toys which do not fit with the idea of Bible times (so avoid toys such as toy cars etc).



Day 1

Sand play with footprints

Create a sand box or bag and place into it some footprint shapes as a starter. Encourage the children to make footprints in the sand and maybe make a path of footprints. You could have other things which will make footprints in the sand, such as small figures and animals.

While the children are playing, remember to talk with them about the story and about journeys in general. Can you play "Follow my leader" with the small figures in the sand with you following their lead and them following your lead?



Day 2

Listening and musical sensory play

Have some quiet musical instruments and things to listen to. Encourage the children to play and explore the sounds. You might want to encourage the children to make a shaker with a tight-lidded plastic pot or the egg shape from inside a Kinder surprise chocolate, filling it with rice. Chat with the children about listening to things, especially things that are very quiet where you have to listen extra hard.



Day 3

Picnic role play

Lay out some play food and let the children play with it, recreating a picnic.

Remember to talk with them about the story and about picnics and about how Jesus loved eating with his friends. Talk together about amazing things and God being amazing!



Day 4

Purple sensory play

Gather lots of purple things together in a treasure box and let the children play with them. Try to find things of a variety of shapes and sizes, materials etc. Be careful not to include anything sharp, breakable or small enough to be put in a mouth or up a nose.



Talk about all the things belonging together because they're all purple, even though they're all different, just like we are all different but belong together as God's family. Chat about the story and about when a baby is baptised in church.

Day 5

Sensory paths

Lay out different textures onto large trays and let the children play on them by walking and feeling what they are like.

Use things in a tray like pompoms, water, carpet, sponges, leaves, plastic bags. With some materials you may need to hold the children's hands to ensure that they don't slip.

Remember to chat with them about the story and about how people put their cloaks down for the donkey and Jesus' disciples to walk on. Talk about whether they've ever seen a parade, about how they cheer and shout when something's really special or exciting, and about their favourite songs to sing or dance to in church.

