



Three-Year-Old

YOU HAVE APPROXIMATELY 780 WEEKS AND COUNTING

**THIS YEAR YOU WILL INCITE WONDER SO YOUR CHILD WILL
KNOW GOD'S LOVE AND MEET GOD'S FAMILY.**

Your three-year-old has many questions. Some might be about creation, heaven, church, and the Bible...and some of their questions might already be hard to answer. Don't panic. Just like other topics, answer faith questions as simply as possible. If they need to ask more, they will.

Life for your three-year-old can be confusing. It's okay to throw a ball, but not a rock. You can hug your friend, but not squeeze his neck. Your three-year-old is learning the rules for life and encountering some necessary discipline. The way you consistently meet their needs, engage their senses, and provide discipline will help them develop self-control.

SAY THINGS LIKE...

- "God made/God loves you. Jesus wants to be your friend forever."
- "How did the Samaritan take care of this neighbor?"
- (Talk about what your preschooler learns at church.)
- "Are you scared? Let's talk to God about it."
- "With God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26 (Repeat simple Bible verses.)
- "Can you let your friend have a turn?" (Prompt them to share.)
- "Isn't that wonderful? Let's thank God for it."



CONNECTION POINT: MORNING TIME

Set the mood for the day. Smile. Greet them with words of love.



CONNECTION POINT: DRIVE TIME

Reinforce simple ideas. Talk to your child and play music as you go.



CONNECTION POINT: CUDDLE TIME

Be personal. Spend one-on-one time that communicates love and affection.



CONNECTION POINT: BATH TIME

Wind down together. Provide comfort as the day draws to a close.

**THINKS LIKE
AN ARTIST**

**WANTS TO KNOW,
"AM I ABLE?"**

**IS MOTIVATED
BY SAFETY**

You help them learn when you...
ENGAGE THEIR SENSES

You capture their heart when you...
CULTIVATE THEIR SELF-CONTROL.

You coach their moral abilities when you...
DISCIPLINE CONSISTENTLY

YOUR THREE-YEAR-OLD IS CHANGING...

THE PHASE WHEN ANYTHING CAN BE IMAGINED, EVERYTHING CAN BE A GAME, AND ONE CURIOUS PRESCHOOLER WANTS TO KNOW, "WHY?"

PHYSICALLY

- Balances on one foot for 5-10 seconds.
- Strings beads and cuts with scissors (the plastic kind).
- Walks upstairs with alternating feet.
- Puts on shoes (Just don't try to correct them if they put the left on their right foot).

SOCIALLY

- Increasingly easier to understand.
- May struggle with some sounds: r, l, s, z, j, sh, ch, th.
- Says over 1,000 words (but who's really counting anymore?).
- Answers "what," "where," and "when" questions.

MENTALLY

- May struggle to understand "real" from "not real."
- Unable to take the point of view of others.
- Lives in the present; has a limited memory of past events.
- Learns by putting things into simple categories.

EMOTIONALLY

- May scream, throw tantrums, and show aggression.
- Enjoys both physical humor and simple jokes.
- Can express basic emotions when asked.
- Can tell you what makes them happy or sad.