

## **Some Learnings and Experiences for Growing in the Faith: Three- and Four-Year-Olds**

### **For developing faith foundations, three- and four-year-olds need**

- to be with caring adults who model following Jesus;
- to have their feelings and actions accepted;
- to forgive and be forgiven;
- to be guided to play and cooperate with others;
- to develop their own abilities and express their own identity;
- to be offered opportunities to make choices within safe boundaries; and
- to have adult interaction as they play.

### **For knowing the Bible and our faith traditions, three- and four-year-olds need**

- to handle the Bible and see others read from it;
- to sing, move to, and say Bible verses; and
- to hear simple, clear stories from the Bible, especially stories that emphasize the goodness of God and the love Jesus has for children.

### **For relating to God and the church, three- and four-year-olds need**

- to learn simple prayers and the Lord's Prayer;
- to be encouraged to give their own offering to God and to the church;
- to develop a sense of belonging at church and as a child of God;
- to experience God's love with family and friends;
- to have accepting adults who are willing to hear their many questions; and
- to experience wonder and awe at God's world.

### **For relating faith to daily living, three- and four-year-olds need**

- to hear stories about loving service to others;
- to see adults and older children participating in acts of service;
- to participate in loving service by sharing food and money and by making things for others;
- to hear teachers and family members pray about people and situations outside the classroom;
- to use Sunday school take-home items during the week;
- to participate in activities that show care for God's world;
- to see evidence that God is important in the daily lives of caring adults; and
- to learn to understand and express their feelings.