

VISUAL SCHEDULES: PRESCHOOL

Visual schedules are a classroom tool to give children cues about the sequence of activities during any given period of time. At church, a visual schedule can add order to a busy routine and minimize distractions during transition times because children know what to expect.

DESIGN YOUR VISUAL SCHEDULE

1. Decide on your classroom routine, utilizing activities that can be represented in pictures.
2. Make your visual schedule cards using one or more of these options:
 - › Print, cut, and laminate the visual schedule cards included in this document.
 - › Purchase a commercial software program at www.mayer-johnson.com or www.do2learn.com.
 - › Take photographs or make black line drawings of activities in your classroom. Make sure the main focus of the picture is the activity or an item to represent the activity with very few other distractions. Label each card with the action/activity.

Make sure the visual schedule is a true representation of your actual classroom activities. For example, do not represent outside time with a picture of a playground if what you do is go for a walk.

DISPLAY YOUR VISUAL SCHEDULE

1. *Permanent.* Laminate the picture cards (pages 2-3) and visual schedule pages (pages 4-9) for durability. Place Velcro® squares on the backs of the laminated pieces. Mount the picture cards in order onto the visual schedule pages, flat ribbon, or sturdy cardboard strip. Another option is to attach a Velcro strip to the wall and place laminated cards directly onto the strip. Use a decorated clothespin as a marker, sliding it down the schedule as you move from one activity to the next.
2. *Hands-on.* Laminate the printed visual schedule pages (pages 4-9). Align the laminated pages vertically or horizontally and tape together. Punch two holes at the top and tie with yarn. Display in the classroom. Attach Velcro squares to each blank box and laminated picture. Place the pictures in a card file or in plastic sleeves in a 3-ring binder. Select cards as needed for the session and display on the visual schedule. Remove each card as the activity is completed.

ADJUST AS NEEDED

Creating visual schedules takes time and effort, but everyone in the room can benefit. Children may feel more calm and relaxed, and adult leaders will be more aware of the classroom routine. When flexibility is necessary, be sure to notify children of changes in advance to give them time to adapt.

ART



BLOCKS



BOOKS



DRAMATIC PLAY



GAMES



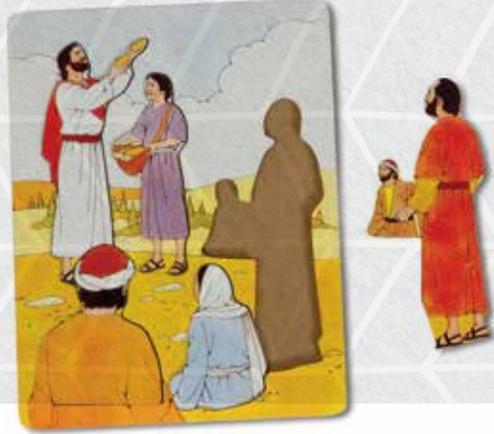
NATURE



MUSIC



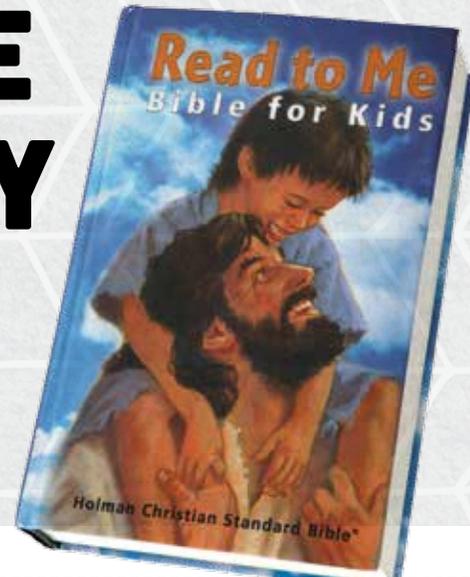
PUZZLES



MISSIONS



BIBLE STORY



CLEANUP/ TRANSITION



SNACKS



