

# What do we need?

**Infants** - a clean, washable doll and a safe, nonbreakable mirror

**Ones** - add a doll bed, child-sized rocking chair and a blanket for the doll

**Twos** - add a child-sized stove, sink, table (about 2' by 3') and chairs

**Threes through Pre-K's** - add a child-sized chest of drawers (Four and older) and doll clothes with self-adhering fasteners

**Kindergartners** - add more detailed props (dress-up tools, packages with printing, writing materials) to encourage increased role play

## **But, we don't have the budget!**

- Use a permanent marker to transform a sturdy cardboard box to a sink, stove, or doll bed.
- Turn a box on its side and cover with a towel. Children can sit on the floor.
- Bring a pan and wooden spoon from home.
- Make bowls from margarine tubs and plates from their lids.
- Collect some empty food boxes.

Adapted from *Teaching Preschoolers: First Steps Toward Faith* by Sanders and Bradberry, LifeWay Press, 2000

**Remember:** To pretend, a preschooler needs to add little to his God-given creativity.

- Select a doll which:**
- is durable
  - is washable
  - has molded and painted hair
  - has few, if any, movable parts
  - has painted eyes

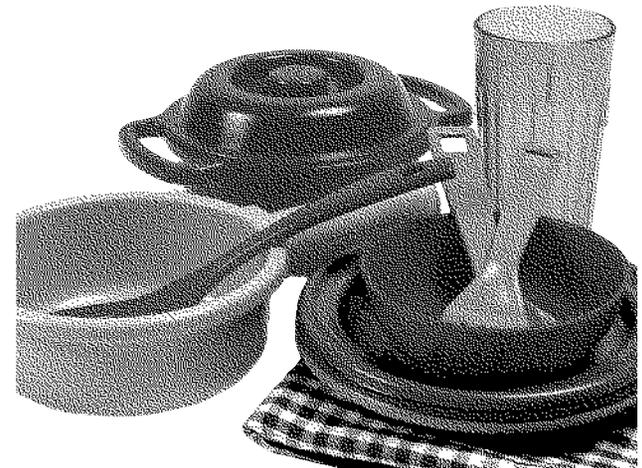
**What ages can enjoy learning in homeliving?**

*Infants* enjoy simply touching a doll.  
*Ones* can delight in putting a doll "to bed."  
*Twos* rock and hug the doll.  
*Threes* can dress and undress the doll and pretend to care for it.  
*Fours and Pre-K's* role play many scenarios with the doll.  
*Kindergartners* develop more "in depth" experiences with the doll, maybe even make a baby nursery in a hospital.

- What does homeliving offer for boys?**
- Boys need places to freely move (vs. extended sitting) and use their developing large muscle skills.
  - Boys need to engage in conversation with others.
  - Boys need to pretend caring for others to learn about being a father.
  - Boys need to role play situations to encourage expressing their feelings in words (rather than physically).
  - Boys need good homeliving experiences because families need the balance of both male and female members.

# THROUGH HOMELIVING EXPERIENCES, a child . . .

- pretends to cook and practices thanking God for food.
- pretends to be a family member and practices for a life of being part of a family.
- pretends to doctor a doll and practices doing what the Bible talks about.
- pretends to play various roles with friends and practices for a lifetime of relationships.



# Values of Homeliving

## Physical

- Develops large and small muscles
- Develops eye-hand coordination
- Provides opportunities to use the five senses
- Allows preschoolers time to relax and release energy
- Helps preschoolers become aware of their physical bodies
- Practice skills like pouring and stirring

## Mental

- Allows children to engage in problem solving and decision making
- Enriches the child's verbal and nonverbal communication skills
- Helps children construct their own understanding of how the world works
- Lays a foundation for symbolic thinking

## Social/Emotional

- Gives children opportunities to cooperate, take turns, and share roles
- Allows children to "try on" roles of people in their lives
- Develops skills in conflict resolution
- Enhances relationships with peers
- Develops the ability to express feelings appropriately
- Allows children to practice negotiation skills
- Helps children feel in control by making things happen
- Promotes feelings of security with the use of familiar materials

## Spiritual

- Provides opportunities for children to hear Bible phrases and conversation about Bible stories and Bible characters
- Allows children time to process, internalize, and express biblical truths such as: "We can be kind to one another," or "People at church work together."
- Introduces biblical concepts such as, "God planned for families."

# SOME HOMELIVING TIPS

- Keep a Bible nearby.
- Locate the homeliving center in a corner clearly visible from the door.
- Post allergy notices when tasting foods.
- Collect props or accessories to enhance learning opportunities.
- Try a recipe first before using it with the children.
- Listen much.
- Avoid unsafe foods (choking hazards) such as: popcorn, whole grapes (unless quartered), hot dogs, whole nuts, raw carrots or celery, unpeeled fruits (apples, pears, peaches), marshmallows, peanut butter (unless in a recipe).

## vo-'kab-ye-,ler-e

stir-mix	pour-sprinkle
hot-cold	freeze-thaw
whole-piece	clean-dirty
sweet-sour	thick-thin
heavy-light	wipe-brush
meat-vegetable	wet-dry
cut-peel-slice	dice-chop
solid-liquid	