

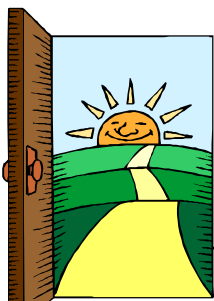
THE ENCOURAGER

Help for Sunday School Teachers— Dedicated to those who take the Word of Life to Children Everywhere

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Childhood
is like
the dawn



The ENCOURAGER

WHEN CHILDREN ARE ILL

Calls on children who are ill or shut in are most important. A cassette recorder with a tape of the weeks Bible story, songs by the children, best wishes from the class, and other interesting activities can keep the child in touch with his class.

Mark, a seven-year old was in the hospital for an extended stay. His Sunday School Teacher made it a point to call on him each Sunday afternoon. She took along a SS Paper and a little gift to help him pass the long hours.

One very hot Sunday afternoon—the trip across the city seemed like too much. “He probably won’t miss me—he doesn’t seem very interested when I do go!” But this dedicated teacher could not rest with her decision and went along. She visited with Mark and told him a Bible Story. As she was leaving, she met Mark’s mother in the hall.

“I appreciate your calls so much,” the mother said, “and Mark does too. Yesterday he asked me what day it was. When I said, ‘Saturday,’ he brightened up and said, “O good! Then tomorrow is Sunday and my teacher comes to see me!”

The teacher breathed a little prayer. “Thank you, Father, for prodding me to come today.”

It is also helpful if the teacher can find opportunity to visit the child’s school for open house or other occasions. Teachers sometimes value such contacts particularly with children who have special needs.

The Sunday School teacher should keep a file or notebook and in this record they would keep clues about the students background, family and school life along with notes as to visits and observations. As to the child, they can impart added information to the teacher by making a family album. This may consist of several sheets of construction or drawing paper fastened together. The child may be encouraged to draw pictures of other family members and those who provide care for them. In addition the student may draw a picture of his favourite activity and / or pictures of pets or friends. Shy or reluctant children may be encouraged to participate in a “Who am I?” game. With the use of a tape recorder the child describes himself and then the tape can be played for the entire group to guess who fits the description. A suggestion could also be made for the child to write short biographies “About Myself”. These are exchanged and children again would guess who is described when the bio’s are read aloud.

It is always a helpful and rewarding experience when teachers invite the children into their homes. Sometimes two or three may be invited to dinner. A teacher may take one or more out for a meal, or for a snack. Such times have deep meaning for a child and add greatly to his sense of personal worth.



His Teacher made it a point to call on him

CHILDHOOD ...

is like the dawn—
the most beautiful time of the day—
but so fleeting !