



### **What Will You Do with This New School Year?**

By Melodee Simmons, Preschool and Early Childhood Learning Center Representative

It's that time of year again. Vacations are ending, days are starting to get shorter, and we are looking at the start of a new school year. Some of you had the summer off while others have been working all summer in a summer camp program. Whatever your circumstances, it is time to get back to the regular school routine.

### **What Do These Children Need to Learn?**

The children have also been in different routines, and they will need to get back into the everyday schedule. For some young children, it is easy to return to preschool and the daily routine. For other children, it is difficult to separate from Mom and Dad and be left with people they don't know or have not seen for a few months.

We can help these children learn:

1. Their parents will always return to get them.
2. School can be a fun place.
3. They can learn to make new friends.
4. Jesus loves children.

## **How Do We Do This?**

To welcome the children and their families, we need to provide a pleasant and organized room, a place that is inviting and interesting for the children. We need the parents to feel that their children are in a safe and comfortable place that also offers them fun and educational activities.

It is important to have a good daily routine that alternates between active and quiet activities. Young children need the daily routine to give them security. A regular routine helps the young child know what to expect next. With varied activities, the children remain interested and have less time to miss their parents.

It is most important to remember these are very young children. They don't always understand why mommy and daddy left them. Show the children your love and the love of Jesus. Have patience, and give them time to build their trust in you and in God.

When the children are settled in the routines, you will be ready for a wonderful year. That is what I pray for each of you.

Have a fantastic year!

**Melodee Simmons** has worked in early childhood education for more than 30 years. She has worked in private and corporate-owned centers in Christian and secular preschools. She currently serves at the Giraffe Kids Learning Center and Development Academy in Houston, Texas. She has received her national director credential. She attends Living Word Church of the Nazarene. You may contact Melodee at [melodee.simmons@yahoo.com](mailto:melodee.simmons@yahoo.com)