

# Understanding Child Development (Beginners)

A Leadership Certification  
Course #8





# Characteristics of Beginners

\* Ages 0 - 3 \*

## Physical

- ~ Active; learning to use & control body
- ~ Large muscles are developing
- ~ Are growing rapidly, but tire easily
- ~ Cannot sit still for long



# Characteristics of Beginners

\* Ages 0 - 3 \*

## Mental

- ~ Everything must be closely related to children's personal experience
- ~ Have short attention span
- ~ Can do only one thing at a time
- ~ Have limited vocabulary
- ~ Learn through repetition



# Characteristics of Beginners

**\* Ages 0 - 3 \***

- ~ Learn through the senses
- ~ Thrive on the familiar
- ~ Able to create a mental substitute for real things (house, dog, mother)
- ~ Interested to look at and handle objects

**Mental**





# Characteristics of Beginners

\* Ages 0 - 3 \*

## Social

- ~ Grow and learn through play
- ~ Like to play alone but are beginning to enjoy some group experiences
- ~ Need security, love and attention

# Characteristics

of

Beginners

**Social**

~ Feel powerless  
and vulnerable

\* Ages 0-3 \*

~ Develop personality through  
contacts with people

~ Thinking is magical fluid; no clear  
distinctions between reality and fantasy





# Characteristics of Beginners

\* Ages 0 - 3 \*

## Spiritual

- ~ Think of God as a real and loving person
- ~ Can learn to repeat simple repetitive prayers
- ~ Are aware of own will; wise limits need to be established

# Characteristics of Beginners

\* Ages 0 - 3 \*

## Spiritual

- ~ Experience God's love best through interaction with adults
- ~ Sense attitudes of respect, joy and anticipation in connection with church, the Bible, and Jesus



# Characteristics of Beginners

\* Ages 0 - 3 \*

**Spiritual**

~ Can identify pictures of Jesus & lip His name

~ Will fold hands for prayer before meals and kneel briefly too