



Teaching Blended Age Groups in Mission Friends

Many Mission Friends groups have a blending of preschool ages in one group. Follow these tips to help in teaching a group of preschoolers with blended ages.

- Choose activities from *Mission Friends Leader* to meet the needs of the age of most of the preschoolers in your group.
- Another option is to read the session plans for each age grouping in *Mission Friends Leader* and choose the activities that will work best for your group.
- Adjust the schedule to meet the needs of your preschoolers.
- Allow older preschoolers to do more advanced parts of activities. For example, kindergartners can use scissors to cut pictures from magazines while twos and threes glue the pictures onto paper.
- Provide an area of the room for cribs and a changing table for babies, ones, and twos. These can be sectioned off with a bookcase, but make sure you can see all of the preschoolers in the room at all times.
- While having Group Time with older preschoolers, plan a quiet activity for a leader to do with younger preschoolers in another part of the room.
- Tell parts of the mission story while preschoolers are involved in activities.
- Be flexible in your plans if you see that preschoolers are becoming disinterested in an activity or during Group Time.