



Leading Toddler Online Small Groups



Online Small Groups with 2 to 4 year olds is possible when you follow these Lead Small Principles:

Be Present & Create A Safe Space

As families log on you want to immediately start connecting with them to help establish a sense of *trust, safety, and community*.

- ▶ **Always give a warm welcome**
- ▶ **Refer to each child by name**
- ▶ **Actively listen and engage to build connections**

When kids log on draw attention to what they may be wearing or doing. This is also a wonderful time to connect with the parents by greeting them as well. This time will help reinforce to each child that even online they matter.

Make it Personal

1. Say their name, often

- ▶ Referring to a child by name helps them
- ▶ Know that you are personally speaking to them
- ▶ You desire to connect

2. Give space for communication

- ▶ The ability to communicate differs for each child.
- ▶ Give plenty of opportunities to respond verbally and nonverbally.
 - ▶ Thumbs up
 - ▶ Hands in the air
 - ▶ Shaking their head

3. Encourage and praise

- ▶ Acknowledge the actions and words that your few express and share throughout each activity.
 - ▶ This boosts their engagement
 - ▶ Reinforces that you are present and attentive.

Partner with Parents

Toddlers, because of their age, will have their parents with them during small group to help them participate in each activity. This creates a unique opportunity to:

- ▶ **Connect and engage with parents**
- ▶ **Reinforce that their child has another spiritual role model in their life**
- ▶ **Provide parents with tools to help them reinforce God's truths right in their own homes.**



Connecting virtually with our Toddler families will be rewarding for you and everyone who participates. If nothing else, remember children learn best when they are enjoying the activities they are watching or participating in with people they trust. How you make them feel at this age makes a big impression on their minds and hearts.

Watch our Toddler Online Small Group Video from start to finish and look for the Lead Small Principals as well as pick up some Tips and Tricks on how to connect with your few.