

Play



prek-k



lower



upper

23. The next time a soft, warm rain shower (with no thunder or lightning!) is falling, send your child out to play in it, and for extra fun, join him! Urge him to see how many raindrops he can catch on his tongue. Look for rainbows. Help the worms to higher ground. Then tell your child about how the warm, fresh water reminds you of God's love splashing all around at a baptism. All who attend a baptism get soaked in God's love, even if they never touched the water!

Some elementary-aged children love a thrillingly LOUD rainstorm, others not so much. Whatever the preferences of your child, a powerful, cleansing rainstorm can be a moment to remember the strong, cleansing love of God promised to you and your child in baptism. A vigorous rain settles the dust and cleans every leaf and blade of grass. So, too, God's baptismal washing "settles the dust" of everyday distractions and disappointments by reminding us whose we are. You and your child belong all to God, all the time, and that's really all that matters. Like a strong rain, God's love in baptism cleans away the mean and selfish things we do so that we can start fresh.



infant

24. Reminding your child of God's love is easy—every time you say, "Peek-a-boo," just add the rhyme, "God loves you!"



infant

25. There's a special kind of God time called kairos time. Kairos time doesn't run by the clock; it runs by God's ways of life slowly unfolding. There's a special kind of infant time called baby swing time. Baby swing time definitely doesn't run by the clock; it runs by baby saying,

“More, more!” God and your baby are inviting you to slow down and remember what’s really important. So keep pushing that swing and stop worrying, at least for a moment, about where else you should be. Breathe deep. Find the wellspring of patience and grace you received in baptism. Give thanks that God always has time for us.



infant

26. One of the first reflexes a baby practices is to hold on to your finger. Your little one is already learning to trust that you will be there for them to hold on to. When we baptize our baby, we promise to proclaim Christ in word and deed. That simply means that when your baby holds on to your finger you can connect their action with your words about trust: “Moouooooommeee loves you. Daaaaaaaaddeee loves you. God loves you.” See if you can get your baby giggling by repeating this happy news. Or sing “This Little Light of Mine” with your index finger extended upwards as a “candle” for baby to grasp and hold.



toddler

27. Make it simple! Toddle around the block with your toddler. Leave your watch at home and simply go at her pace. This idea is certainly simple, but that doesn’t mean it’s easy! When you focus on your child instead of your phone, your friend, or your coffee, you must discover her little way of seeing the world and her style of communication. Even if you don’t know it, you are teaching your toddler about prayer. When you give her your full attention, you’re demonstrating what God always gives each of us.