

ParentPause

Ideas to Grow Your Preschooler's Faith at Home

SEPTEMBER 2011

Intentional Training



Everywhere we look these days we see ads for conferences and seminars offering training on every subject, from "Cooking an Italian Dinner" to "Getting Along With Difficult People" (a seminar they seem to put on every other month or so).

Work, too, has training. There's training on new programs, training on new computer software, training on time management, training on instigating interesting conversations with your carpool. (OK, just kidding on the last one.)

The point is, "training" is a buzzword of our time, but it's a word that's been around from the very beginning. In Proverbs 22:6 we read: *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it* (NKJV).

The word *train* in the Bible is from the Hebrew word *chanak* which means "to discipline." (Discipline, by the way, does not mean "punishment," but rather comes from the word *disciple*.)

Let's say you decide to attend a workshop on a new software program. You walk into the room and the instructor comes in with a TV. He nods to you, sits down at the front of the room and starts watching a football game. Some of the class begins to chat and he stops watching long enough to yell at them to be quiet.

Someone has a question about the subject and attempts to get the instructor's attention, but

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he is focused on the screen and doesn't even hear the student. (After all, his team just broke a tie with a touchdown.) After the class is over, the student goes out into the world, and tries to use the software, but totally messes up. When she tells the instructor the software doesn't work, he is devastated. What part of the training didn't she get?

Silly, right? We wouldn't waste our time in a class where the instructor watches football instead of teaching.

Yet sometimes we as parents do this very thing. We focus on everything but "training" our children, hoping that the children will somehow turn out OK and learn everything they need to learn on their own.

It doesn't work that way.

We need to be intentional with our kid training.

And kid training is not limited to a weekend seminar — it's a 24/7 ongoing responsibility.

Awana® is a tool for you to use in that instruction. As your child attends Puggles® or Cubbies® this year, show your excitement when he learns a concept or a verse. Share his enthusiasm for going to church. Let him know through your actions that the Bible is a priority for you and your family.

Be intentional in your training.



Tips for Intentionality

1. Look up the verses your child is learning in the Bible. (The child can't read the verses, but you can point out that the verses in the Cubbies handbooks are from God's Word.)
2. Make working on the teaching cards or handbooks a special time. (Cuddle up in a comfy chair or share a snack while talking about Scripture.)
3. Make attending Awana a priority; don't let your child hear you complain about being too tired or too busy to take her to church.
4. Encourage your child to thank his leader as he leaves club each week.
5. Ask him questions about the lessons. This is a good review, *and* lets you know that the child understands what's being taught.

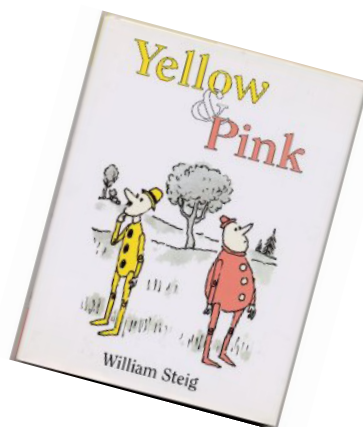
BOOK NOOK

Yellow & Pink

by William Steig

This is not a Christian book as such, but rather a simple picture book that teaches creation. Yellow and Pink are two wooden dolls painted yellow and pink! They ponder about where they came from and come to the conclusion that someone had to have made them.

This is a good, supportive story as you teach your kids that God created the world.



**Cubbie,
draw a
picture
of your
dad/mom
reading
your
Cubbies
handbook
to you.**



**Dad/Mom,
your turn
to draw a
picture of
yourself
reading the
Cubbies
handbook
to your
child.**

Calendar



September 13:

- Open House
- Cubbies: tonight is for those who have not been a part of Awana at Woodlands Church. It is also for those who are new to Cubbies.
- Special Time: 6:00 – 7:00 pm



September 20:

- First Night of Awana
- Be sure to check out our new schedule

September 27:

- No special theme tonight, just a “regular” Awana night
- Cubbies: we will be doing Bear Hug 2 tonight

People to Get to Know

We have a new Cubbies Director this year. Elizabeth Williams is jumping into the Director role to help plan and run our Cubbies club. Crystal Orley is returning as Cubbies Secretary. Elizabeth and Crystal can help you with any questions you have about Cubbies. You will want to get to know them both as we step into the new year of Cubbies.

Our Schedule

We will give you more details about our schedule in club but we just wanted to quickly hit the highlights for you.

- Opening in the WV network
- Bible time in the Smarter General Store
- Rotate between games, snacks and crafts
- Song & Award time in the WV network

