

“The Wonder of Busy Hands”

“The Wonder of Hands” is a monthly devotional series written to nurture and affirm the preschool and early childhood ministry partners of Iowa District West. Directors are invited to share the devotion with staff, board members, and other partners. The devotional series builds on the theme of the August 2013 District Early Childhood Conference. We celebrate the wonder of Jesus’ hands and the hands who bless His children.



The Iowa District West Early Childhood Cabinet seeks to support and resource the preschool and early childhood ministries of Iowa District West. The annual District Early Childhood Conference is a key instruction and connection event for directors, teachers, board members and pastors. Please put the August 8, 2014 “Wild About Children” Conference on your calendar.

April 2014

*“Aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands.”
1 Thessalonians 4:11*

Early childhood educators watch the wonderfully busy hands of children. The hands play with toys, guide the pencil, page through the book, clap to the music, guide the scissors, mold the play dough and dozens of other activities. It would be revealing to list the number of handy activities during the course of a daily class session. Praise God for the busy little hands He created and the wonders they explore.

“Busy” also describes the hands (and feet, brain, etc.) of the early childhood educator. A common response to the question “How are you?” is “Busy!” While there is often the burden of “busy,” there are the blessings of “busy.” Consider the opportunities and blessings that God gives for your busy hands each day: lovingly touch a child; hold a Bible story; turn the pages in a book; point to the day’s activities on the classroom calendar; light the worship candle; open the paint jar; greet a guest; type a text message to a parent; enter evaluative data on the keyboard. *“To work with your hands”* not only describes the manual or assembly line laborer or the casual craft explorer, it describes early childhood educators.

The Apostle who celebrated busy hands also encouraged quiet hands: *“I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting up holy hands”* (1 Timothy 2:8). It is important that every day the busy hands stop to pray. Hands are folded or *“lifted up”* to give thanks to God for all His blessings, to seek His guidance, or simply to relax in His grace. Our hands are never too busy to reach out to the child, fellow staff member or family member in need. It is a blessing to work God’s wonders with busy hands.

Hand in Hand—Reflections and Discussion

- + Make a list of all the hand activities that you see the children involved in during a class session. What about the list amazes you?
- + Make a list of all the hand activities that you see the staff involved with during a class session. What about the list amazes you?
- + What do you do to give your hands a quiet time?
- + How do you complete this sentence? My hands are never too busy to . . .

Holding God's Hand in Prayer

Bless, Lord, the labor We bring to serve You That with our neighbor We may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, We would work with You, Harvesting, milling For daily bread. Amen.
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