

So . . . you're a new Mission Friends leader . . .

Congratulations! As a **Mission Friends** leader, you have decided to embark on a journey of discovery with preschoolers. You will be able to share in their joy as they discover missions and learn about God's love for everyone. While this is an exciting step, you may have some questions about **Missions Friends** and how to prepare for your new role.

Planning

Mission Friends covers a large age-range as it runs from birth to pre-kindergarten. Because of the different age levels, it might be necessary and helpful to divide them into groups according to age. The rule of thumb is to always have two leaders with any group of children. As you begin to prepare and plan, you need to enlist plenty of volunteers. The younger the children, the more helpers you will need. One good way to enlist volunteers is to have the parents of the children sign up to be class helpers.

Consider your church's schedule of activities as you decide when and where to have **Mission Friends**. Some churches already have a time set up for missions organizations. Some have **Missions Friends** during Sunday morning worship. Be creative. You can meet anytime when the mothers of the children come together for a meeting of their own.

Start gathering supplies and looking at resources. Make a list of prospects and plan an enlistment activity and/or promotional materials to get the word out about **Mission Friends** meetings.

Go to www.missionfriends.com for more information and teaching tips.

Resources

WMU How-To: Mission Friends

This book is a great starting point for **Mission Friends** leaders. It includes information about preschooler's learning styles, needs, and age-level characteristics. It also includes ideas for enlistment activities, promotional ideas, and ideas for planning and leading a Mission Friends meeting.

Start is the primary teaching tool for **Mission Friends**. Each magazine includes lesson plans and helpful hints and articles for teachers. The *Start Resource Kit* includes supplemental activities for the lessons found in *Start*.

Share is a magazine with activities for the children and information and ideas for parents that will allow them to share in this missions learning experience with their children.

First Steps in Missions is an annually published book filled with activities, bulletin board ideas, songs, and many other helpful resources to help supplement the **Mission Friends** lessons.

These resources can be ordered from www.wmystore.org

Wings

A holistic approach to Christian education which combines Bible study and missions. A template is provided which enables teachers to design their own lessons.

CBF Doing Missions in a World Without Borders Preschool Material

www.cbfonline.org

This is a quarterly publication that offers mission studies, ideas for art, nature, games, music, and prayer.