



Baby's Wishlist

by Sharon Ellard



We may need time to feel comfortable with you—

—especially if you don't work with us every week. Our faces usually reflect the expression on your face and the tone we hear in your voice. When you smile and speak with a soft voice, we'll know we can relax in your arms.



We will learn to trust this church as you give us TLC.

God wants us to trust Him, but we must learn to trust God's people first. As you give us loving care when we cry, we will learn to trust God's people—even before we learn to talk.



We need more physical care than bigger kids.

Until we can crawl, please change our position periodically, and place toys or pictures where we can enjoy looking at them. Check our diapers at least once an hour. Ask our parents how they care for us at home. We will be happier at God's house if our care here is similar to the care our parents give us at home.



We like attention when we're happy too.

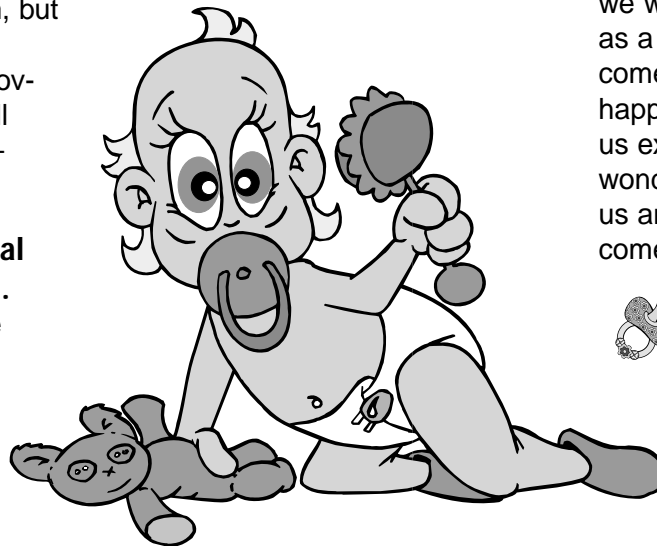
Even though we can't talk, we enjoy looking into your eyes and listening to songs and words and

prayers. We like to watch as you move toys. By the time we're four months old, we'll try to reach for toys you hold.



We like to be held.

The coziness of being held helps us feel loved. If we feel loved by God's people now, we will feel loved by God later.



We need times of quiet and times of action.

Sometimes we need to rest quietly in a crib or swing. Other times we enjoy lying on a floor quilt with colorful toys. It's also nice when you hold us and move our arms to match the actions of a song.



We learn through repetition.

Week by week as we hear the same songs about Jesus and as we see the same Bible pictures, we will begin to love Jesus and the Bible.



We learn by imitation.

If you greet us with a smile, if you laugh with us and sing to us, we will come to think of church as a happy place. When we come to church, we will feel happy to be here. If you ignore us except when we cry, we may wonder whether you really like us and are happy to have us come to church.



We'll let you know if we like this church.

We won't write a note. We won't say *thank you*. But if we like this church, we'll smile when we come to the church nursery, and we'll go into your arms without crying. Our parents will notice that we are happy to be at church. Jesus will know we are happy to be at church. And God will thank you for helping us learn to love His house.

Questions for Further Study—

1. What do babies need before they begin to feel comfortable at church?
2. At what times should you give a baby attention?
3. How do babies let you know if they like it at church?

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