

we hear. Shall we not then make use of the play instinct in our Sunday Schools?

So strongly do children possess this play instinct, that teachers of Beginners are realizing more each day its value in teaching. One recalls the time, not far removed, when everything a child was taught was considered necessarily uninteresting, and the introduction of play into the Sunday School would have been thought irreverent. Such is not the case now in our ideal Beginners' Departments, and if these exercises have the proper thought behind them, the children will see no irreverence in them, but will rather be drawn closer to the heavenly Father because they actually lose themselves and truly live the story they are playing.

Give a child something to do, and he at once becomes interested; let him remain idle, and we find him becoming restless. If our Sunday programme, therefore, is properly prepared, and sufficient thought given to it, it is not necessary to have one uninteresting moment.

Not only in our songs and in the circle talk, but also in the lesson itself can this instinct be utilized, and those who have used it have found that the child gains a much more vivid impression of the truth we have endeavored to teach. He would much rather draw a picture on the blackboard, even though he may have to explain what it represents, than to have the teacher do it all. He is more interested in showing how he minded the

baby, or swept the floor, or dried the dishes for mother, than in merely telling you.

One teacher, in telling about God's care of winter birds, asked some of the children to play that they were the birds looking for food among the snow, while the other children threw crumbs to them, and she suggested that when they went home they ask mother to give them some crumbs to feed their little bird friends.

Another teacher, in telling the story of new life at springtime, asked the children to close their eyes and pretend that they were the sleeping flowers, and one child, representing the heavenly Father's sun, ran quietly around the room, wakening the flowers by gently touching each drooping head. The children love to play that their fingers are little refreshing drops of water sent to give the thirsty grass and flowers a drink, or that their arms are strong windmills grinding the wheat into flour for our food. Quite naturally the teaching of the Bible verse for the lesson follows.

The more we work with these little folks, the more we realize the great opportunity that is ours of leaving a lasting impression on the child through this instinct, for without expression, there is no impression. And as we see the eager little faces and the interest with which they take part in this play, we do not question for a moment its fitting place in the Sunday School.

Toronto

Some Primary Department Plans

The Sunday School of Knox Church, Regina, is held in the basement of the church, and there is one corner partitioned off for the Primary Department. In this section of the School there is an average of about 80 children every Sunday, although on the roll there are about 100. These children are divided into 9 classes, according to ages. The room is fitted with kindergarten chairs and a few pictures on the wall.

Recently, owing to the absence of the superintendent, the Primary teachers have taken turns conducting the opening exercises. We usually ask the children what hymn they would like to sing, and after the singing of same, we remain standing while we repeat together the Lord's Prayer.

In each class, one pupil takes up the collection in a little basket, and they stand up at the front while we sing our gift hymn, "This money is for Jesus," and repeat our gift prayer.

We have a little birthday service which the children enjoy very much. Any child having a birthday during the week, brings a copper

for each year, and some one is chosen to hold the birthday bank. The child drops in the coppers, and we all count them as they drop. We wish the child "Many Happy Returns." We also have a board with nine candles on it, and one is lighted for each year. The child who has the birthday, holds the board with the lighted candles, while we sing, "Jesus bids us shine." A birthday card is then given the child.

The birthday money is used to supply flowers, or little comforts for any of our sick members.

For music, we open up the folding doors, and use the Sunday School piano (the large School have their opening exercises in the church) until the others come downstairs. Our closing hymn is usually sung without any music.

We teach the children such memory verses as the Beatitudes, the Twenty-third Psalm, the two Great Commandments, and several gift verses, which are usually repeated before we take up our collection.