

## THE DEPARTMENTS

### A Programme for a Beginners Department

*By Miss Florence L. Cameron*

#### BEFORE THE SESSION :

- a. Keep Early Comers Busy
- b. Quiet Music
- c. Start on Time

#### WORSHIP PERIOD—15 Minutes

- a. Opening Song
- b. Prayer
- c. Praise Song
- d. Missionary Service
- e. Offering Service
- f. Prayer Responses
- g. Prayer Song

#### FELLOWSHIP PERIOD—10 Minutes

- a. Welcome Song
- b. Cradle Roll Service
- c. Birthday Service

#### THE CIRCLE—15 Minutes

- a. Song
- b. Informal Talk
- c. Song
- d. Prayer
- e. Rest Exercise

#### STORY PERIOD—15 Minutes

- a. Preparation for the Story
- b. Telling the Story
- c. Impressing the Story

#### CLOSING PERIOD—5 Minutes

- a. Folders Distributed
- b. National Anthem
- c. Closing Prayer
- d. Good-Bye Song
- e. Wraps Put On

#### BEFORE THE SESSION

It is essential, in planning a programme for any group of children, that we have the needs of that particular age which we teach, ever before us.

Children of four and five years of age need constant change, as they are naturally restless and informal. They come to us from an exclusively home environment, without any experience in formal gatherings.

Very few of them are as yet attending kindergarten and have only learned a very little of cooperation through play with other children. They are self-centred, and a teacher of Beginners finds it difficult to get united action from these children, while it is

comparatively easy to have them respond to a direct appeal.

Any programme, therefore, planned for Beginners should be subject to instant change, because of interruptions and unforeseen happenings, and, although it is necessary to have a planned programme, yet it would not be wise to hold rigidly to it. Any programme written for a Beginners' Department is therefore only suggested.

We are coming to feel more and more that to create the right atmosphere in our different Departments in the Sunday School is most necessary, if our programme is to be successfully carried and our teaching effective.

A great many things add their contribution to this illusive factor in our programmes.

The equipment has something to do with it. How much more restful is the room which is suitably decorated in soft shades and has a carpet on the floor. The ventilation has something to do with it.

The children must be comfortable, so it is advisable to remove the heavy wraps and prevent the air from becoming hot and stuffy.

We may have all these things and yet the proper atmosphere may be lacking. Perhaps the little children of the Beginners are more susceptible to right atmosphere than any other age. If our Department is noisy and the children unmanageable, we usually find that the proper atmosphere has not been created by the teachers. A great deal can be done before the Session. The superintendent, and as many helpers as can come, should be in the class room at least twenty minutes before the hour to help the children off with their wraps and to keep early comers busy. They soon gather around a teacher who has some pictures and objects to show them and are so pleased to be allowed to help in any way they can.

Everything that is going to be used by the superintendent, pianist or teachers should be ready and in the proper place.

The superintendent should have pictures, objects, chalk, birthday bank and everything she will require on a low table before her.

The secretary should have her book for marking attendance, the folders for the day and all her materials at hand. It distracts the children's attention to have a teacher or helper go to the cupboard for supplies during the session. We must guard against all