Put your HEART into Primary

BYU Women’s Conference 2013
Sharing Station

Presented by: Susan Hall Porter and Jennifer A. Porter
Primary Leaders have H.E.A.R.T.

**Humility**
Be thou humble; and the Lord thy God shall lead thee by the hand, and give thee answer to thy prayers. ~ Doctrine and Covenants 112:10

**Enthusiasm**
Be enthusiastic about Primary. Find new and creative ways to engage the children. Remember, Primary is the BEST place to be!

**Acts of Love**
There are only two requirements for serving in Primary. Love the Lord and Love the Children. Always express the love that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ have for them.

**Reverence**
Teach reverent conduct and expectations. Help children feel reverence toward Heavenly Father. Help them recognize and feel the spirit of the Holy Ghost.

**Testimony**
Primary is where children’s souls are anchored in Christ. Help each individual child grow in their testimony of Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ and the Restored Gospel.

Put your heart into your Primary calling
There are only two requirements to serve in Primary...

Love the Lord & Love the Children
We can “Heart”ly wait to share with you ways you can...

“Put your HEART into Primary”

♥ Put your heart into Primary by Ministering to the One
♥ Put your heart into Primary during Sharing Time & Class Time
♥ Put your heart into Primary through Reverence
♥ Put your heart into Primary through Nursery
♥ Put your heart into Primary: Make & Keep Sacred Covenants
♥ Put your heart into Primary by Supporting the Family
♥ Put your heart into Primary with This, That and the Other!
Put your heart into Primary by Ministering to the One

“I encourage you to reach out to those you serve and to love them… True happiness and lasting joy will come to you and to each one you serve as you take a hand and reach a heart.” ~ President Thomas S. Monson

♥ Primary leaders and teachers should seek to minister to individual Primary children and their families. The purpose of ministering is to help others become true followers of Jesus Christ. Ministering to others includes:
- Remembering their names and becoming acquainted with them
- Loving them without judging them
- Watching over them and strengthening their faith one by one
- Establishing sincere friendship with them and visiting with them in their homes

♥ “Focus on one child and when you do, get a glimpse of the face of that child. See the light in their eyes. Imagine what they are feeling and what you can say or do to increase that child’s faith and help them stay on the path back to Heavenly Father. See them for who they can become and then treat them like they are already that person.” ~ Sister Rosemary M. Wixom

♥ Primary children’s souls should be anchored in Christ. You can help them anchor to the Gospel of Jesus Christ as you share your testimony and teach them the truths of the restored gospel.

♥ Spotlighting a Child – Turn out the lights and use a flashlight to scan the room for a child to spotlight. Tell about the spotlighted child, such things as age, favorite Primary song, favorite scriptures, hobbies, interest, special likes, etc. See attachment: 1 - Spotlight for a special poem that you can use with your spotlight each week.

♥ Differently Abled Primary Children – Have a heart full of love for your differently abled Primary children. Identify and seek ways to meet the needs of differently abled children. Counsel with parents and priesthood leaders to determine the best way to handle your specific situation. For ideas and suggestions how to include and engage these special spirits, visit: https://www.lds.org/topics/disability?lang=eng

♥ I’m Aware of You & Love You – Let the Primary children know that you are aware of them, that you care for them and truly love them. You are aware of the good things that they do. Compliment them on their accomplishments. Let them know that you are aware when they are not in Primary and that you’ve missed them. For a resource of printable cards. See attachment: 2 - Ministering Cards that you can use to minister to the children in your Primary.
Put your heart into Primary during Sharing Time & Class Time

All Primary Leaders and Teachers are called of God. Put your full heart into your calling, into your sharing times and lessons, seek the spirit and bear testimony of Gospel Principles. You will change the lives of the children in your Primary and your life will be changed too!

♥ “Teaching our children to understand is more than just imparting information. It is helping our children get the doctrine into their Hearts.” ~ Sister Cheryl A. Esplin

♥ "The precious soul of each child really matters, and the greatest thing we can do is to help ignite the embers of faith that are in their hearts.” ~ Sister Rosemary M. Wixom

♥ Sister Cheryl A. Esplin has said: “We will teach our children to understand as we take advantage of every teaching situation.”
  - Invite the spirit
  - Set the example
  - Help them live what they learn

♥ “As our children learn to understand Gospel doctrines, they become,” ~ Sister Cheryl A. Esplin
  - More Self Reliant
  - More Responsible
  - Part of the solution to a family challenge
  - Make positive contributions to environment of home and success of family

♥ Each week in Primary, plan ways to (1) identify the doctrine, (2) help the children understand it, and (3) help them apply it in their lives. ~ 2013 Outline for Sharing Times

♥ Have you opened the Treasure Chest? – There are many jewels and gems waiting for your Primary. Are you using the valuable treasures available to you or is your treasure chest still locked? The key to open this priceless treasure is found at www.lds.org. Some of these church approved treasures include:
  - Improving Teaching Methods
  - Teaching Children
  - Lesson Resources by lesson number, topic, category, etc.
  - Music
  - Leader Resources
  - Disabilities
  - Ministering to the One

Put your HEART into Primary
Put your heart into Primary through Reverence

Reverence is profound respect and love. Children are capable of understanding that reverence is a feeling of love for Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and that it shows in their attitudes and behavior. ~ Primary General Presidency, 2012

In the August 25, 2012 edition of the Church News the Primary General Presidency released an article entitled “Reverence and Respect: teaching children forgotten principles”. To read the full article please use this link: http://www.ldschurchnews.com/articles/62665/Reverence-and-respect-teaching-children-forgotten-principles.html

Reverence Taught through the Butterfly Story – Read the story called “To Catch a Butterfly” from the May 2001 Friend. Attach a realistic looking butterfly to the end of a dowel or clothespin and have the butterfly land on the reverent child while waiting to start Sharing Time. See attachment: 4 - To Catch a Butterfly for details.

Even President Monson had the wiggles – In the March 2010 Friend we find a story about President Monson learning about Reverence. https://www.lds.org/friend/2010/03/a-lesson-in-reverence

The Primary 5 – When the primary children are becoming irreverent, say, “Primary 5” then begin counting to five. By the time you get to five, the children should be reverent again. Teach the children the 5 things that they should be focusing on during the Primary 5. As you count they will remember the 5 things they should be focusing on – Eyes, Mouth, Feet, Ears, Arms. See attachment: 5 - Primary 5 for the exact 5 focuses and what the primary child should remember.
CBR – You’ve heard about CTR, but have you heard about CBR? When a primary child is Caught Being Reverent, they receive a CBR shield to let them know that you caught them being reverent and how much you appreciate their reverence. The other primary children will notice and will begin to be more reverent. See attachment: 6 - Caught Being Reverent for printable shields that you can use.

Primary Manners – The March 2009 issue of The Friend has an article entitled “Primary Manners.” This article can be used to show the primary children what they can do to be reverent and show respect each Sabbath Day. http://www.lds.org/Static%20Files/PDF/Magazines/Friend/English/2009/FR_2009_12_22___04272_000_028.pdf

Why Reverence Matters – There are three steps to help children develop a feeling of true reverence, and the behaviors that will grow naturally from those feelings. See attachment: 7 - Why Reverence Matters for full details.

Reverence Outside of the Primary – Reverence should not only happen in the Primary Room and classrooms, but it should occur throughout the Church building. Every member, adult or child, needs reminders of this. Signs placed in the hall outside of the Primary Room can help remind everyone to be reverent. See attachment: 8 - Reverence for Everyone for printable signs to use in the halls.

We have a great opportunity and obligation to teach reverence to the children in Primary. Elder Boyd K. Packer taught: “When we meet to learn the doctrines of the gospel it should be in a spirit of reverence... Reverence is much more than being quiet and sitting still during a lesson. It is an attitude that permeates all righteous behavior. It is manifest in our respect and love toward God and each other.” (Teaching, No Greater Call, page 82)

Reverence is an expression of love and respect for Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. Primary leaders and teachers help children understand what reverence is and how to act reverently. They encourage reverence by personal example. They also encourage reverence by coming to church prepared to teach from the scriptures and to use visual and learning activities that invite the influence of the Holy Ghost.” (Handbook 2, Section 11.8.4)

To teach reverent conduct we find 12 specific ways to teach reverent behavior in Teaching, No Greater Call, page 83.

1. Set limits. Define behavior that is acceptable and behavior that is unacceptable. For example, do not allow language that makes light of sacred things or that is vulgar, profane, or unkind. Discourage impolite behavior, such as eating or going in and out of the room during the lesson. As those you teach interact with one another and with you, encourage them to listen to one another without interrupting. Also encourage them to use courteous language, such as “please,” “thank you,” and “excuse me.”
2. Organize and prepare so that there will be as little confusion as possible. If you are a classroom teacher, arrive early to the classroom.

3. Begin and end on time. This will show respect for those you teach.

4. Speak in a pleasant, courteous manner. Always greet those you teach with a smile.

5. Be considerate of learners’ contributions to discussions.

6. If you teach children, anticipate simple things you can do to remind them to be reverent. You may be able to restore a reverent atmosphere by quietly singing or humming a reverent song, displaying a picture, or using a hand signal that the children recognize as a reminder to be reverent.

7. Remember that it is especially difficult for children to sit still for long periods of time. Help children listen and participate actively. Give them breaks periodically.

8. Take time to explain the importance of reverence, especially to children. Explain the purpose of prelude music. Talk about why it is important to listen, participate in the singing, and talk quietly. Help children understand that reverent behavior pleases Heavenly Father. Explain that as they are reverent, they will feel good inside and their testimonies will grow.

9. Do not reward reverent behavior with prizes or food. Do not have contests to see who can be the most reverent. These tend to focus on the wrong things. Teach about the real rewards of reverence, such as increased understanding and the influence of the Spirit.


11. Help learners recognize the influence of the Spirit. Bear your testimony as prompted.

12. Center all your teaching on the Savior. Display a picture of the Savior in the classroom.

**Put your heart into Primary through Nursery**

The purpose of the nursery is to help children learn the restored gospel of Jesus Christ and live it. – Nursery Manual

*And he spake unto the multitudes and said until them; Behold your little ones*” – 3 Nephi 17:23

• The nursery class is a gathering of angels and a place where the spirit can be strongly felt during every lesson. Nursery leaders have a very special and rewarding stewardship. Make every problem, every lesson, every song, and every activity a matter of prayer and the Lord will tell you through His spirit, exactly what He wants you to do. As you magnify your Nursery calling you will bless the lives of His precious little ones.

• **Nursery Music time can be fun** - Here are a few ideas that you can incorporate:
  • Use bells or maracas for the children to shake while they sing
• Have visual aids the children can hold
• Make good use of the Children’s Primary Songbook
• Sing “I am a Child of God” before starting the lesson, it brings a reverent spirit to the classroom

♥ **Activities and Attention Grabbers** -

• Take a walk outside in good weather. Use a rope that each child holds on to. They can only move forward if they are holding on. Teach about gospel principles and the creation as you explore.
• Have a “museum walk” around the church halls and look for pictures of Jesus or have pictures taped up around the church at their eye level. Stop at each picture and explain the story.
• Try doing something other than coloring every week. There are a lot of ideas in the nursery manual and at lds.org in the resource area, that can help you.

♥ If the children get too disruptive and need to calm down, have them lie on the floor as if they are going to take a nap, turn down the lights and listen to reverent music. Remind them that they are in the Lord’s house.

♥ **Lessons** -

• Teach each lesson twice. The children seem to be more excited the second time because they recognize some of the things they were taught during the first time the lesson was taught.
• Send a note home with each child explaining the lesson. Parents can then have a conversation with their child about what they learned in nursery that day.
• Teach from the scriptures.
• Start each lesson with a prayer and end with your testimony.
• Use play dough to teach the lesson and have the nursery children form a part of the lesson you want them to remember. See attachment: 9 - *Play Dough Recipe* for details.

♥ **Creating a Celestial Nursery** – 5 tips to help you create a celestial nursery. See attachment: 10 - *Creating a Celestial Nursery* for details.

♥ **Music Fishing Pole** – Let the children go fishing for the next song that you will sing. Create your own fishing pole with a dowel stick, string and a magnet. Place a paperclip on each fish and the magnet will catch the fish and the next song to sing. See attachment: 11 - *Go Fishing for Music* for ready to print fish, just right the song on the back.

♥ **Missionary Name Tags** – While the nursery children sing “I hope they call me on a mission” have them walk around in a circle holding Missionary Name Tags. See attachment: 12 - *Missionary Name Tags for Nursery* for printable signs.
Follow the Prophet – Create shakers with pictures of ancient and latter-day prophets and 1 with the current prophet. Have the nursery children walk around and shake the shakers as they sing. They follow the leader, the child who has the picture of the current prophet.

Grab Bag of Music Fun – Use small items to represent a nursery song and put them all in a bag. Let the nursery children take turns and choose an item from the grab bag and then sing the song that was chosen. Sample grab bag items could be:
- Yellow pom pom – Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam
- Fish or picture of water – Give Said the Little Stream
- Picture of a nursery age child – Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes
- Missionary Name Tag – I Hope They Call Me on a Mission
- Bag of Popcorn – Popcorn Popping on the Apricot Tree
- Picture of Current Prophet – Follow the Prophet

File Folder Games – Help the nursery children to learn about the Plan of Salvation, the Resurrection, the Creation, the Scriptures, Families, Prophets, Being thankful for our bodies, Temples, Baptism, Pioneers, etc. by creating very simple file folder games. Create a variety of the file folders and reuse each week allowing the nursery children to pick a new game each week.

Matching Games – Using church related images create a matching game for your nursery children. See attachment: 13 - Matching Game for Nursery for ready to print game.

Lacing Cards – Do you remember having lacing cards as a child? Recreate those for your Nursery class. Laminate church related images and create your own lacing cards. See attachment: 14 - Nursery Lacing Cards for printable cards.

Put your heart into Primary: Make & Keep Sacred Covenants

“From ancient days to modern days, true disciples of Jesus Christ have understood the importance of making and keeping covenants with the Lord.” ~ Richard J. Mayne

Baptism

Baptismal Booklets – Simple booklets can be made to prepare Primary children and families for their upcoming Baptism. Within the booklet, you can cover preparing for baptism, interview with the Bishop or Branch President, why we are baptized, following the Savior’s example, the gift of the Holy Ghost, etc. This booklet can be provided on a ward or stake level.
**Baptism Subway Art** – See attachment: 15 - *Baptism Subway Art* for a full printable Baptism Subway Art.

**Baptismal Notes** – Following the baptism, while the guests wait for the child to change, have them complete a note to the Primary child sharing their thoughts about the child and their baptism or share their own testimony. See attachment: 16 - *Baptismal Notes* for full printable Notes Card to use to capture as keepsakes for the Primary Child.

**Priesthood Preview**

- **What is a Priesthood Preview?** - All details are available in Handbook 2, section 11.5.5. Or via this link: http://www.lds.org/handbook/handbook-2-administering-the-church/primary/11.5.2?lang=eng#115. Additional details can be found in the Faith in God for Boys Booklet.

- In the May 2003 Friend, you can find an article entitled “The Restoration of the Priesthood.” This article contains insights from President Gordon B. Hinckley on the restoration of the Priesthood and is easily relatable to a young man who will soon receive the Aaronic Priesthood. http://res.ldschurch.ch/magazines/thefriend/en/2003/thefriend_2003-05.pdf

- **Plug into Priesthood Power** – This object lesson is a great example of how you can visually demonstrate the power of the priesthood. See attachment: 17 - *Plug into Priesthood Power* for the full description and a handout that you can provide at the end of the evening.

- **Priesthood Power** – The power of the priesthood can be likened to power lines. Without the priesthood the power and authority of God on the earth cannot help us. When we tap into the priesthood we fully exercise the power that it can bring to our life. A simple power line can be made using a 2x8 wood board (stained or painted), dowel sticks (stained or painted) and wire.

**Turn the Hearts of the Children to the Temple**

- “I now invite the attention of the...children of the rising generation as I emphasize the importance of the Spirit of Elijah in your lives today.” Elder David A. Bednar provides the children of the rising generation with a promise that “you will be protected against the intensifying influence of the adversary.... you will be safeguarded in your youth and throughout your life.” https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2011/10/the-hearts-of-the-children-shall-turn?lang=eng

- In the August 2002 issue of The Friend there is a story and activity called “The Heart of the Children”. In this article children are taught of the things that they can be doing today to Turn the Hearts of the Children to the Fathers. Although they may not yet be old enough to go to the Temple to participate in Baptisms for the Dead there are still important things that they can do. http://www.lds.org/friend/2002/08/sharing-time-the-heart-of-the-children?lang=eng
**Temple Touch** – To allow the temple to come alive for every Primary child dedicate a few minutes during Primary for a Temple Touch. Each week have a Primary child or two share a moment from the week when they were touched by the spirit of Temples. Maybe they drove by a temple with their family and were able to sing “I Love to See the Temple”, perhaps they reviewed a pedigree chart with their parents, or maybe they looked at the picture of the temple hanging in their home and talked to their parents about covenants. Allow children to place their thumb print on a sketch, silhouette or picture of the temple as they share their Temple Touch with the other Primary children.

**Put your heart into Primary by Supporting the Family**

Primary can assist families in fulfilling the promise of the prophets. “As we teach our children the gospel through word and example, our families are spiritually strengthened and fortified.” ~ Robert D. Hales

- **Fulfilling our Divine Destiny as Sons and Daughters of God** – This Family Home Evening packet provides you with a full evening of family discussion on fulfilling our individual divine destiny. See attachment: 18 - *Divine Destiny FHE Packet* for a full printable and shareable packet for your Primary and Ward families.

- **Come Unto Christ** – This Family Home Evening packet is designed to invite Primary children and their families to Come Unto Christ. See attachment: 19 - *Come Unto Christ FHE Packet* for a full printable and shareable packet for your Primary and Ward families.

- **Preparedness** – This is a 19 week Family Home Evening packet designed to help Primary age children feel prepared for any situation that they find themselves in. This packet will help to arm families with tools as they prepare for various situations that could occur in the future. See attachment: 20 - *Preparedness Packet FHE Packet* for a full printable and shareable packet for your Primary and Ward families.

**Put your heart into Primary with This, That and the Other!!**

“Behold I say unto you, that by small and simple things are great things brought to pass... And the Lord God doth work by means to bring about his great and eternal purposes; and by very small means...” ~ Alma 37: 6-7

*Put your HEART into Primary*
Microphone Manners – A fun and unique way to present the children with the appropriate way to speak into the microphone for the Children’s Sacrament Meeting Presentation. See attachment: 21 - Microphone Manners for the full details and printable documents.

Thank you Cards – Use Ward or Stake Primary Presidency Note Cards to communicate with your Primary Workers, Parents, etc. See attachments: 22 - Ward Note Cards and 23 - Stake Note Cards for printable cards.

All I need to know I learned in Primary – We’re sure you’ve seen this before, but it’s too good to leave out of this Primary Sharing Station. See attachment: 24 - All I need to know I learned in Primary

CTR Rock – I want to Choose the Right and make good choices everyday...And when I see this CTR Rock that is set next to my bed, it will be a good reminder to be the best I can... Paint a rock with the letters CTR and have the children place the rock next to their bed with this poem to remind them to always Choose the Right. See attachment: 25 - CTR Rock for the full printable poem.

CTRS – A fun way to remind Primary Children to always Choose To Read Scriptures. See attachment: 26 - CTRS Bookmark for printable bookmark that you can give to each child.

CTR Cards – When you catch a Primary child Choosing The Right, provide them with a CTR card that contains their name and what they were doing when you caught them choosing the right. See attachment: 27 - Caught CTR Cards for printable cards that you can use to acknowledge when a Primary Child is caught CTR.

Book of Mormon Subway Art – As you challenge your Primary children to read the Book of Mormon you can provide them with a Book of Mormon Subway Art as a reward for reading. See attachment: 28 - Book of Mormon Subway Art for full printable Book of Mormon Subway Art.

Teacher Appreciation – Primary workers need to be told Thank You every now and again. See attachment: 29 - Notes of Appreciation for creative ideas on how to say Thank You.

Popcorn Popping: Missionary Style – Check out this fun rework of Popcorn Popping all about Missionaries. See attachment: 30 - Missionary Popcorn Popping for song versions.

Connecting Faith in God for Boys and Cub Scouts – A quick reference guide that links the Faith in God Requirements to the Scouting Equivalents. See attachment: 31 - Connect Faith in God for Scouting for the reference guide.

Happy Birthday Primary – Did you know that Primary has a birthday? It does – August 11, 1878. The week prior to the birthday you might want to point out to the Primary children that there is another very special birthday - sing Happy Birthday to Primary and share it’s age!
Primary is a place to have fun and share a place to show the children you care.

Primary is a place to discover and learn where every child gets a turn.

To grow in the Gospel in different ways lessons they will cherish for the rest of their days.

Primary is a place to choose the right and learn to always walk in the light.

As Primary workers we must help the children to see that with Heavenly Father they can live for eternity.

~ Ashley Porter

It is our hope as you review this packet, Put your HEART into Primary, and prayerfully consider the ideas from our Sharing Station, you will bless the lives of the children within your stewardship as you learn and grow in the gospel together.

With Heartfelt Love,
Susan Hall Porter & Jennifer A. Porter