

Family Life: Theme One



Dear Family,

We are ready to begin the first theme of *Fully Alive*, our family life program. Because the partnership of home, church, and school is so important, this letter is written to let you know what we talk about in class and to offer some ideas for your involvement. For more information for families, please go to www.occb.on.ca.

About Theme One

The first theme of *Fully Alive*, called “Created and Loved by God,” is like the foundation of a house. Everything else depends on it. In this theme we explore the Christian belief that we are made in God’s image, and that God knows and loves each one of us. We are a very special creation. Because of this, we respect and value ourselves and others.

In Theme One we will

- recognize and appreciate the gift of love God has given each person, the gift of our lives.
- explore the value of similarities and differences among people.
- learn about the early stages of human development (pre-natal, infancy, and childhood), and discuss our need for other people to help us grow and develop.
- examine the impact we have on other people by our words and actions, and the importance of awareness of other people’s feelings.

Working together at school and at home

- Ask your child to tell you the story of Beatriz Perez and her special gift.
- At around this age, children often begin to want to be like everyone else. In class we will be talking about how much unique personal characteristics contribute to the richness of life. It’s important for children to learn to respect differences and value their own uniqueness.
- We will be learning about the first stages of human development. Children love hearing about their early years: when they first walked and talked, funny things they said, and the activities they especially liked. You might share some of these stories together.
- Learning to be sensitive to the feelings of other is another topic we will be discussing. It takes time for children to learn that they have an effect on other people, even when the effect was unintended. When you take the time to explain the reasons something may be hurtful, you are helping your child to grow in sensitivity to others.