

Activity	Materials
<p>Warm up / welcome game: Creation card match</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set out the flash cards / memory card pairs face up. God made lots of wonderful things, let's see if we can find the things that are the same. Let's help each other find cards that match. <talk each child through finding and sharing with someone else> 	flashcards (animals, plants, birds, fish) eg. Creation memory match game
<p>Attention grabber: God made the stars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show everyone some picture of the heavens at night (Hubble telescope images, etc) What can you see in the sky at night time? <moon, stars, etc.> Did you know that God made all of them with His power? The Bible says that God knows how many stars there are and all their names! (Psalm 147:4) I don't think we could count them all do you? <count as high as the children can> 	pictures of the stars at night
<p>Song time: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you know a song about stars? <sing "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star"> 	
<p>Story and question time: Creation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a large picture / picture book / felt board or plastic animals and plants to tell the story 	felt board & pictures (or other props) eg. Creation illustrations
<p>Craft time: Sun paper plate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God made the sun, let's make a picture of the sun I have some shapes here, do you know what colour they are? <yellow> What shape is it ... it could be a triangle? <circle> Does your plate have a middle? Can you show me where that is? Let's stick the yellow circle in the middle. Now let's stick some nice yellow pieces around the edges Glue the sun into their scrapbooks 	paper plates circles of yellow paper precut for centre yellow crepe paper pieces glue
<p>Game: What's hiding in my sock?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hide a plastic toy animal inside a large sock, pass the sock around and see if anyone can guess by feeling (no peeping) what animal it is. Talk about how many legs it has, does it have a tail or a long neck, how many ears does it have... 	sock plastic toy animals
<p>Craft time: Night sky</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can anyone remember what we see in the sky at night? <moon, stars, satellites> Let's make a picture of the stars in the sky. <black paper and star stickers> Glue the sky into their scrapbooks 	black paper star stickers
<p>Memory verse: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Gen 1:1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is our new memory verse. I am going to say it a few times, can you say it too? Give everyone a sticker for trying. 	memory verse sheets stickers
<p>Activity time: play dough (sensory play or fine motor skills)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God made lots of different animals. Let's make some animals from play dough ... what can you make? 	play dough
<p>Take home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colouring sheet 	colouring sheet

NB: mix and match the activities to suit your students and the materials you have available

Notes:

Making props

- You can make **flash cards** with matching animal stickers on squares of cardboard or clip art on a computer. You may also find sets online to download.
- The Bible story illustrations from Sweet Publishing are Creative Commons licenced and can be reproduced for Sunday School props. <https://distantshoresmedia.org/resources/illustrations/sweet-publishing>
- You can make **felt board pictures** by printing on paper, laminating and adding a Velcro dot to each piece. To **make a feltboard**, staple a large piece of felt over a strong piece of cardboard or a framed canvas.
- Play Dough keeps very well. I store it wrapped in a plastic bag in the cupboard for months quite successfully. I usually double the recipe - that makes enough to fill an icecream container. This recipe comes from the McKenzie Creme of Tartar box.

Ingredients

- 2 cups plain flour
- 4 tbs creme of tartar
- 2 tbs cooking oil
- 1 cup salt
- food colouring
- 2 cups water

Method

1. Mix the dry ingredients.
2. Add the water and oil.
3. Stir all the ingredients together and cook over low-medium heat.
4. Keep stirring (you'll get your forearm workout for the day in). The mixture will start to thicken up and pull together. Keep going a little bit longer until it is no longer sticky when you squeeze a piece of the mixture between your fingers.
5. Once it's no longer sticky, dump it out onto a clean surface.
6. While still warm (but not hot) knead together until smooth. Be careful because it is hot in the saucepan and when you first take it out.

Sharing and working together

- Attention spans at this age are fairly short, a variety of activities is needed. Colouring in is not something that 2-3 year olds will do for very long, and many don't enjoy it very much. Giving them coloured pieces of paper and asking them to draw something on the paper and then cutting it out to stick into scrapbooks will be much more popular.
- At this age many children engage in '[parallel play](#)' – they play beside each other but not together. Encouraging sharing through playing games as a group helps to build social skills. Pausing to ensure each child has their turn is important, they will wait if they know their turn always comes.
- You will often be sidetracked by the children wanting to talk (especially 3 year olds), if it is off topic just acknowledge it and redirect eg. "that's very interesting, now let's have a look at ...". If it's on topic don't be afraid to talk more about something that has captured a small child's interest. Eg. The sun might prompt a conversation about hats and sunscreen for example.
- General statements like "God loves everyone" will not have as much impact on 2-3 year olds as saying "God loves <name>" ... it is good to take the time to go around the table and reinforce the statement with each child's name – the repetition will help everyone remember.