

# Nurture

Nurture is a powerful tool in the development of children. It is biblical and practical, moving preschoolers toward proper concepts of God, family and other people.

There are three important applications for the concept of nurture in the Cubbies program. They involve children, parents and discipline.

## Child Nurture

### What is child nurture?

In Deuteronomy 6:7, the Lord instructs parents to teach their children. This teaching needs to take place diligently as they sit, as they walk, when they lie down and when they rise up. In other words, children are to learn continually through everyday life. And they can! Cubbies leaders may define “nurture” as anything they do to help preschoolers develop healthy spiritual concepts. Almost any activity you participate in has the potential for learning and nurture.

### Why child nurture?

Realizing the opportunity you have to impact your clubbers’ development through nearly every activity of the club meeting, you can begin to see the significant role you play as a leader. Nurture helps your clubbers develop mentally, emotionally, socially and spiritually. It helps build a groundwork by which children will realize they are sinners in need of Christ as their personal Savior.

Through your work with Cubbies, preschoolers will:

- Begin to develop proper spiritual concepts.
- Be introduced to the Bible and begin to learn and master Scripture memorization.
- Hear the gospel and begin to realize they are sinners in need of Jesus as their Savior.
- Begin to understand how to honor the Lord by living obediently.
- Develop positive attitudes toward church and fellow believers.
- Experience a sense of belonging and contributing to their local Cubbies club.

### When and how is child nurture applied?

Nurture is built into every part of the Cubbies program – handbooks, teaching materials and training.

### Who implements child nurture?

Everyone involved in Cubbies plays a role in nurturing preschoolers. Cubbies club leadership and parents work together toward this goal.

## Nurturing Discipline

The Cubbies program utilizes a biblical approach to discipline. Rather than discipline taking the form of punishment, nurturing discipline focuses on disciple-making. With this approach, Cubbies learn about unconditional love, right and wrong behaviors, obedience and self-control.

The activities of each Cubbies club segment place different expectations upon clubbers with regard to behavior. During Play Time, they will laugh, sing and run. But during Story Time, Cubbies are expected to sit quietly and listen.

### The Five-count

The five-count is the primary way leaders can keep meeting times orderly. To initiate the five-count, the leader (or director) claps her hands and calls out, “Calling all Cubbie Bear Buddies!” She then raises one hand and begins to count to five (slowly), while holding up the appropriate number of fingers. As soon as other leaders hear the count, they should stop what they are doing and raise one hand also. The leaders keep their hands raised until all the children are quiet.

### The Cubbies Uniform Vest

Cubbies learn concretely when what they hear is reinforced through one or more of their senses. In addition to serving as an awards display, the Cubbies uniform vest also serves as a positive tool for discipline. It promotes a visual sense of order and belonging to their club. Wearing the uniform vest helps Cubbies feel like part of the club and encourages them to act accordingly.

## Parent Nurture

Parenting is a challenging task! Many parents of Cubbies are young, and the responsibilities that go along with preschool age children are an entirely new experience. They need to learn important parenting skills that enable them to encourage and support their child’s growth. The Cubbies program helps parents through what we call “Proactive Parent Nurture” (or PPN).

### The Four “W’s”

#### What is proactive parent nurture?

Cubbies’ parents are recognized as VIPs (Very Important Parents). They play the critical role in the development of their children. PPN stresses the need for leadership and parents to work together. You are encouraged to build relationships with your Cubbies’ parents. Look for opportunities to get to know parents. Help them see how important their involvement is to your efforts in club.

## **Why PPN?**

PPN provides the means for leadership and parents to build together in the lives of Cubbies. It is also a great way for Cubbies leaders to minister to parents.

## **When and how is PPN applied?**

PPN is applied when and wherever an opportunity arises. Some examples might be a Parent VIP Night, Coming-in Time, Going-home Time, or special events during the club year. But, remember, you can create opportunities to nurture parents at almost any time throughout the club year.

## **Who implements PPN?**

All Cubbies leaders need to actively pursue opportunities to build relationships with parents.

To help you accomplish this, nurture is built right into the format and content of the handbooks, lessons, and director and leader training materials.

# **Nurturing Parents**

Since parents are a part of Coming-in Time, here are some helpful ways you can begin building relationships with them:

- Welcome the parents – be friendly.
- Show love to their child.
- Focus conversation on the parent and child. Find out how the child did in completing the week's Bear Hug.
- Give the parents an idea of some of the activities their child will be doing in club.
- Occasionally invite the parents to stay for club and see how well their child is progressing.

## **Additional Nurture Ideas**

Build enthusiasm from the beginning by starting at home and continuing through the club meeting. You could do this by considering ways to let the Cubbies know how special they are to you. Laminate or cover with contact paper the teaching lesson picture. Cut picture into puzzle pieces and mail a piece to each Cubbie. Instruct them to bring their piece to the next meeting to find out about the lesson. Another idea is to take a photo of the entire club. Each meeting, the Cubbie will add their piece to the puzzle. See the difference if a Cubbie is missing.