

# ParentPause

Ideas to Grow Your Preschooler's Faith at Home

SEPTEMBER 2011

## Intentional Training



Everywhere we look these days we see ads for conferences and seminars offering training on every subject, from “Cooking an Italian Dinner” to “Getting Along With Difficult People” (a seminar they seem to put on every other month or so).

Work, too, has training. There's training on new programs, training on new computer software, training on time management, training on instigating interesting conversations with your carpool. (OK, just kidding on the last one.)

The point is, “training” is a buzzword of our time, but it's a word that's been around from the very beginning. In Proverbs 22:6 we read: *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it* (NKJV).

The word *train* in the Bible is from the Hebrew word *chanak* which means “to discipline.” (Discipline, by the way, does not mean “punishment,” but rather comes from the word *disciple*.)

Let's say you decide to attend a workshop on a new software program. You walk into the room and the instructor comes in with a TV. He nods to you, sits down at the front of the room and starts watching a football game. Some of the class begins to chat and he stops watching long enough to yell at them to be quiet.

Someone has a question about the subject and attempts to get the instructor's attention, but

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he is focused on the screen and doesn't even hear the student. (After all, his team just broke a tie with a touchdown.) After the class is over, the student goes out into the world, and tries to use the software, but totally messes up. When she tells the instructor the software doesn't work, he is devastated. What part of the training didn't she get?

Silly, right? We wouldn't waste our time in a class where the instructor watches football instead of teaching.

Yet sometimes we as parents do this very thing. We focus on everything but "training" our children, hoping that the children will somehow turn out OK and learn everything they need to learn on their own.

It doesn't work that way.

We need to be intentional with our kid training.

And kid training is not limited to a weekend seminar — it's a 24/7 ongoing responsibility.

Awana® is a tool for you to use in that instruction. As your child attends Puggles® or Cubbies® this year, show your excitement when he learns a concept or a verse. Share his enthusiasm for going to church. Let him know through your actions that the Bible is a priority for you and your family.

**Be intentional in your training.**



### Tips for Intentionality

1. Look up the verses your child is learning in the Bible. (The child can't read the verses, but you can point out that the verses in the Cubbies handbooks are from God's Word.)
2. Make working on the teaching cards or handbooks a special time. (Cuddle up in a comfy chair or share a snack while talking about Scripture.)
3. Make attending Awana a priority; don't let your child hear you complain about being too tired or too busy to take her to church.
4. Encourage your child to thank his leader as he leaves club each week.
5. Ask him questions about the lessons. This is a good review, *and* lets you know that the child understands what's being taught.

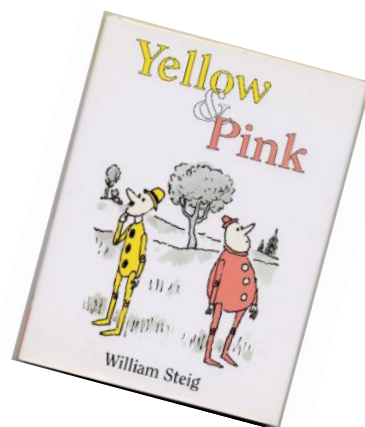
## BOOK NOOK

### Yellow & Pink

by William Steig

This is not a Christian book as such, but rather a simple picture book that teaches creation. Yellow and Pink are two wooden dolls painted yellow and pink! They ponder about where they came from and come to the conclusion that someone had to have made them.

This is a good, supportive story as you teach your kids that God created the world.



**Cubbie,  
draw a  
picture  
of your  
dad/mom  
reading  
your  
Cubbies  
handbook  
to you.**



**Dad/Mom,  
your turn  
to draw a  
picture of  
yourself  
reading the  
Cubbies  
handbook  
to your  
child.**