



Dear Parents:

We're so glad you've signed up your child for a busy week at Roar. This VBS program is a wonderful way to help your little ones explore God's Word in new ways and know that God is good through every wild season of life.

At Roar, preschoolers will be in small mixed-age groups with other young children ages 4 through 5. These small groups, called Crews, are led by adults or teenagers who love children and love the Lord. Crews are an important part of VBS! Here's why.

Older kids share their skills and abilities with younger kids. Five-year-olds play an important role in their Crews. They become the "big kids" who can cut with more accuracy, glue more easily, and (gasp!) even write their names! Younger children will love being with your child and will show their affection generously. All this admiration is wonderful for your child's self-esteem and allows him or her to serve younger children in hands-on, practical ways.

Younger kids are loved and nurtured by their Crew members. They'll be loved, served, and doted on by the older children in their Crews. Plus, in a mixed-age small group, the Crew Leader has much more time to spend one-on-one with your child. And you can be sure that the activities are all specially designed for mixed-age groups, so younger children won't be in over their heads.

Preschoolers develop new friendships. While it's true that your child may not be with his or her very best friend, there will be opportunities to make many new friends. Studies show that children learn as much—or more—when they're linked with kids of different ages. If your child really needs the security of a familiar face, we can most likely pair him or her with one special friend.

Millions of children have experienced the multi-age "family" approach at Group's VBS, with surprise and delight at the outcome. However, the most important factor in making this program a success is your attitude. If your child has doubts, reassure him or her that this is a wonderful opportunity to try something new. Your support will speak volumes to the children we're serving.

At the end of each day, you can pick up your preschooler after the Closing Circle in our Little Paws Preschool area. For safety reasons, please don't intercept your child before the Preschool Director and Crew Leaders have had the opportunity to make sure they and their belongings are ready to go home.

Sonja Burns, Little Paws Preschool Director