



Meet the ECEnet Team

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Ready to Lead

LEA has gone through many positive changes in the past years. The ECEnet team is ready to *lead, equip, and affirm* you, the members, as you minister in each of your schools, centers, and congregations.

God has chosen **you** to be right where you are, and He is walking with you every day as you *lead, equip, and affirm* the children and the families with whom you work. After a long, difficult day you may ask, "Why am I doing this?" or "Is this really worth it?"

Look at Deuteronomy 6:6-7, which says, "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

God chose **you** to minister to His children, to be a role model, to talk, sit, and walk with them. Let Him lead you, let Him give you strength on those

long, difficult days; let Him work through you to bring the good news of eternal life to the children and their families.

What a blessing you are to your school, center, and congregation. You are called, You are chosen. Use your gifts to serve the Lord.

Member Benefit

Included in this mailing is the book *God Chose You* by Julie Dietrich. This children's book is a great tool for teachers and parents as they talk about how God made each of them special and knew them even before they were born. Its main focus is on becoming a part of God's special family through baptism.

The ECEnet team is excited to give this book to use as you minister to children and their families. Also included, on the reverse of Newsflash, are various ways to incorporate this book into your classroom, family homes, and congregation.

Don't Do Computers?

Overheard at one early childhood conference was a teacher who said, "I teach preschool. I don't do computers!"

While research on the effectiveness of computers in early childhood programs varies, many early childhood teachers have found the Internet useful in providing ideas. Websites containing lesson plans abound--if you have time to look for them. Therein probably lies the problem. Early childhood educators are busy people!

Your own LEA-ECEnet listserv may be just what you need to save time in researching ideas or solving dilemmas. The listserv puts you in touch with an entire network of others in positions similar to yours.

If your're not on the ECEnet listserv, or don't know if you're on it, please ask to be included by e-mailing your request to leagrubeec@lea.org.

Activities to Accompany *God Chose Me*

Life Week

Read *God Chose Me* to a group of children. Then give them a paper with the words, “God Chose Me” and have them glue a picture of themselves on the paper or let them draw a picture of themselves.

Let the children draw a picture of themselves and their family.

Sing the song “God Made Me, Every Part You See,” or “I’m Glad” from *Little Ones Sing Praise* from Concordia Publishing House

Baptism

Read the book *God Chose You* during Jesus time when discussing baptism. Ask each child to bring an item from their baptism, (picture, candle, special clothes, etc). Display the items in the Jesus Center for the children to look at and talk about during the week.

Sing “I Was Baptized” or “Baptism Song” from *Little Ones Sing Praise* by Concordia Publishing House.

New Baby

Obtain funds from an organization in the church and purchase *God Chose You* as a baptism gift for members.

Write a note inviting and encouraging the family to participate in faith-building and other activities available in your congregation.

Children from the center or school could also include notes or pictures.

Develop and start a support/play group for parents with newborn or young children.

Book Buddy

Put the book *God Chose You* in a plastic bag (Ziploc® or library bag work best). Include a small doll for the child to hold while the book is being read. Insert the following directions:

1. Read the book with your child.
2. Tell your child two things that you think are special about him/her.
3. If available, show your child his or her photographs from baptism.
4. Look at the special outfit that was worn and any other items from the special day.
5. Together say the following prayer: *Thank you God for choosing me to be Your special child through baptism. Thank You for sending Jesus to take away my sins and give me a home in heaven. I love You. Amen.*

Schedule the bag to go home with each child.

Parent Orientation

Read *God Chose You* to parents on orientation night or at home visit.

Discuss how God chose their child especially for their family and what a privilege and obligation they have to share God and His love with their child and together grow in faith.

Suggest reading a Bible story or devotion every day. Provide a check-out library as resources for the parents.

Send home a selection of table and bedtime prayers that will be used at the center/school, which can be reinforced at home.

Encourage families to attend church and Sunday school. Provide a brochure with times, places, and other faith-building activities and programs.