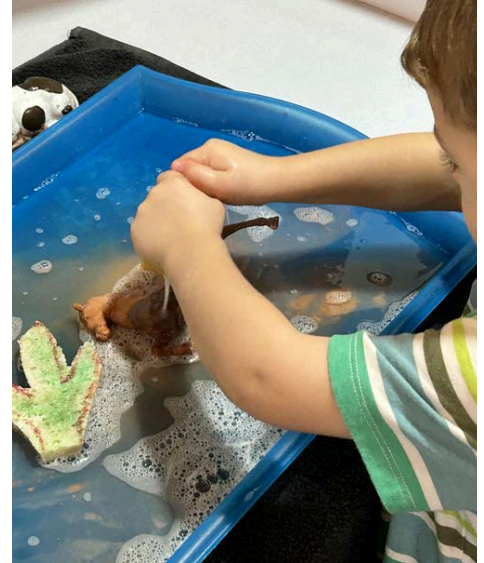


SCRUB-A-DUB-DUB

Cleaning Our Muddy Farm Friends in the Tub

In the lively preschool discovery zone, excitement stirs as a group of children gathers around a tub filled with toy farm animals caked in “mud.” Today’s activity is a special one: washing the muddy farm animals. What seems like a playful task holds rich opportunities for learning and growth, both in terms of developmental skills and Christian values.

As the children pick up sponges and washcloths, they begin to scrub the toy animals clean. This hands-on activity helps the preschoolers develop fine motor skills—the small, precise movements required to squeeze sponges, scrub surfaces, and carefully hold the animals. These actions build the muscle control and coordination that will support later tasks like writing, cutting, and even tying shoelaces.



While they work, the children are also practicing hand-eye coordination, focusing on specific areas of the animal to clean. This process teaches them attention to detail, as they notice where the mud is and how much effort it takes to remove it. The repetition of scrubbing also strengthens their focus and concentration, skills that are vital for later academic tasks like reading and math.



As the teacher observes the children working, she has the opportunity to introduce the Christian values that can be learned through this simple, yet meaningful task. “Just like we’re cleaning the mud off these animals,” she says, “God helps to wash away our sins when we ask Him for forgiveness. No matter how dirty we might feel inside, His love and forgiveness makes us clean again.” This lesson on forgiveness and grace is introduced in a tangible way that even young children can understand. As they scrub away the dirt, they are reminded of the way God cleanses our hearts.

The task also teaches the children about responsibility and stewardship. “God gave us the job of caring for His creation,” the teacher explains. “Just as you’re taking care of these animals, we are to take care of the world and each other.” Through this, the children learn that caring for others—whether it be animals, people, or the environment—is an important part of living out their faith. This activity fosters empathy as they learn to be gentle and kind in their actions, understanding that their care can make a difference.

As the children take turns washing the animals, they also practice important social skills like cooperation and sharing. Since there are only so many animals and tools available, they must wait for their turn and learn to share resources with their classmates. The teacher is able to encourage them, saying, “Just like Jesus taught us to be kind to one another, we can show kindness by sharing and helping each other.” This lesson reinforces the Christian value of serving others, even in small ways.



The process of washing the animals provides a valuable lesson in patience. Some of the mud is stubborn and doesn't come off easily, requiring the children to work slowly and persistently. The teacher guides them through this, saying, “Sometimes it takes time to make things better, but with patience, we can see good results—just like how God is patient with us.” This encourages the children to develop perseverance, understanding that not all tasks can be completed quickly or easily.

As the children see the once-muddy animals become clean, there's a sense of accomplishment and pride in their work. This builds self-esteem, as they realize that their efforts have led to a visible outcome. The teacher uses this moment to reinforce the value of gratitude, saying, “Let's thank God for giving us the chance to take care of His creation. Every time we help, we're showing God's love.”

Bringing It All Together:

In this simple activity of washing muddy farm animals, the children have learned far more than just how to clean a toy. They've practiced important fine motor skills, focus, social cooperation, and problem-solving. They've also internalized Christian values such as forgiveness, responsibility, patience, and empathy. Through this playful experience, they've gained a deeper understanding of how everyday actions can reflect God's love and care for His creation.

