# This first session is an introduction to our wonderful world, and explores the beginnings of our amazing planet. What is our Earth made of? Where did we come from? What can we see around us? Encourage some awe and wonder at the amazing creation of such a beautiful home!

## Bible story

**Genesis 1-3** (see suggested books for story ideas)

## Activities

Why not choose from the activity suggestions below? You can find the details of these and other activities on [The Salvation Army Family Ministries Pinterest page.](https://uk.pinterest.com/familyministriesukit/)

As a guide, the suggested activities have asterisks to show how easy they are to prepare and set up, from simple (\*) to more complicated (\*\*\*).

**Nature scavenger hunt trail \***

Set off on a nature scavenger hunt to see what different natural objects and animals you can find. Printable trail sheet available.

**Earth coffee filters \***

Watch the blue and green earth colours mix together to create some coffee filter earth art. You’ll need coffee filters, blue and green watercolour paints or watercolour markers, water spray bottles and a sunny spot to let them dry.

**Play \***

Have a basket full of inflatable globes, globe stress balls, blue and green beanbags and parachute games.

**Water play \***

Water is everywhere on our planet, keeping everything alive! Fill a Tuff Tray with water and add containers, sponges and sieves to make rain and rivers. Pop in some plastic fish or frogs for extra fun.

**Rock painting \***

Make a pet rock! Older children could carefully paint a pebble with blue and green paint and add googly eyes to make an ‘earth rock’. For younger children put large pebbles in a big tray with coloured water / watercolour paint and paint brushes.

**Sun recycled art \*\***

Make a giant sun shape from a large cardboard box and provide paint sticks and yellow crayons, or yellow and orange paper, wool and collage materials, to turn it bright yellow.

**Fossils sensory tray \*\***

Fossils can be millions of years old. Make some sand play-dough or use air-dry clay and press shells and toy bugs into it. You could also include small toy dinosaurs and bones, and some magnifying glasses for a closer look.

**Barefoot sensory walk \*\***

Fill large trays with different nature textures – grass, sand, smooth pebbles, soil and leaves. Water is fun too but things will get messy – bring some old towels! Encourage children to take a barefoot sensory walk through the trays. Some children will prefer just to use their hands and explore!

**Earth sensory tray \*\***

Fill a tray with blue and green coloured rice. Add blue and green scoops and bowls and wooden people figures for a simple baby-friendly sensory activity.

**Fizzy Volcanos \*\*\***

Long ago, volcanos erupted and created new land. Create a fizzy volcano with vinegar or lemon juice and baking soda. Why not add a few toy dinosaurs for some prehistoric fun?

## Story ideas

Suggested books for story time or a story mat:

* *God’s Very Colourful Creation* (Tim Thornborough)
* *In the Beginning* (Agostino Traini)
* *God’s Creation: Help Tell the Story* (Joanne Liu)
* *Becoming Me: A Story of Creation* (Martin Boroson and Christopher Gilvan-Cartwright)
* *Wow said the Owl* (Tim Hopgood)
* *What a Wonderful World* (Tim Hopgood)
* *Love, the Earth* (Frances Stickley and Tim Hopgood)
* *Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth* (Oliver Jeffers)
* *The Play-Along Bible* (Bob Hartman), ‘Turn on the Lights’ page 3
* *God’s Big Promises Bible Story Book* (Carl Laferton), ‘In the Beginning’, pages 16-20
* *The Lion Easy Read Bible* (Christina Goodings), ‘In the Beginning’, pages 6-11

## Questions

* What do you like best about our wonderful world?
* When God looked at all he had created, he saw that it was good. I wonder what you think is good about God’s wonderful world?
* What is special to you? Your family? Your home? A cuddly toy or blanket? Our wonderful world is special to God. He created it and needs all of us to help look after it.

## Song suggestions

All these songs can be used across this series:

* ‘Creator God’ by Nick & Becky Drake:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GM4IVZuljEI>
* ‘The Lion’s Roar’ by Sarah Pickering, Vineyard Kids:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dzk42FtUR_g>
* ‘He Made Me!’, DANCE FIT TOTS 2:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cD6i_rBlyks>
* ‘I Might be Small’, Allstars Kids Club:
<https://youtu.be/QCAoiVCDIqo?list=RDQCAoiVCDIqo>
* ‘If I Were a Butterfly’, CJ and Friends:
<https://youtu.be/KaLzudhlxxk>
* ‘I Can Wriggle’, Stephen Gwilt:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lA045hFAI5Y>
* ‘I am Wonderfully Made’, Kids on the Move:
<https://youtu.be/7603oH33Ghs>
* ‘He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands’, Hi Heaven:
<https://youtu.be/rAPNUVHLh1Q>
* ‘What a Wonderful World’, Louis Armstrong:
<https://youtu.be/rBrd_3VMC3c>

## Prayer

Thank you, God, for the wonderful world you have made! It is amazing!

I really love the … *(Invite families to shout out what they love about God’s creation)*

Thank you, God, that you made our wonderful world. Please help us to look after your world and each other.

Amen.