

## BASIC TRUTH

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY  
FRIEND FOREVER.

## SAY THIS

WHO CAN DO ANYTHING?  
JESUS CAN DO ANYTHING.

## DO THIS



### MORNING TIME

When you go into your baby's room this month say, "Good morning, [child's name]" as you pick him up and hold him close. Whisper in his ear, "Jesus is your friend and I am too! Let's have a great day together!"



### FEEDING TIME

(Sing to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat") "Who, who, who can do? Who can do anything? Jesus can. Jesus can. Jesus can do anything."



### CUDDLE TIME

Cuddle up with your baby this month and pray, "Dear God, thank You for [child's name]. He is so precious. Help me to trust that with You all things are possible. Help me to be the parent [child's name] needs. I love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."



### BATH TIME

Begin at your baby's toes and walk your fingers up as you say, "With God all things are possible," ending by lightly tickling his neck.

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## **DOES MY CHILD MEASURE UP?**

### **A Milestone-Comparison Trap**

by Deborah Springer

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Google “developmental milestones,” and you may be surprised to see 1.5 million results. Are there that many milestones in the 18-year lifespan of a child from birth until they graduate from high school? No, definitely not.

1.5 million results tells us that common milestones happen at different times, on a different “schedule,” for every single child.

No need to panic if your baby does not automatically become a walking toddler by that first birthday celebration. Your three-year-old who refuses to potty-train will jump that hurdle before she leaves home for college. And, your five-year-old, who still can’t master zippers and buttons, will achieve those skills before his first date.

Is it ever okay to compare your four-year-old to your best friend’s child of the same age or to your older child who said so many more words at the same age? What’s the harm?

Potentially, the harm can be that your child will sense that he or she doesn’t live up to your expectations. She may eventually quit trying to be the person that she thinks you want her to be, and can’t be, or experience stress and shame because she feels inadequate.

Worse yet, you may feel inadequate as a parent because you see your child as “not as good as” another child, and you falsely interpret that as a negative commentary on your parenting abilities.

But comparing for the sake of understanding differences and strengths can bring insights. You may be alerted to real struggles or developmental delays that are best addressed by professionals during the preschool years. When you use a positive form of comparison, you are simply identifying your child’s strengths or their needs.

Your child’s unique strengths, personality characteristics, and temperament will start to shine through starting in the first few months of life. As your baby grows and develops in these early years—at his own developmental pace—he already has what he needs most: You—an amazing parent, perfectly positioned to embrace his physical need to demonstrate he is worth loving exactly how he was created to be.

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