

These are designed to help the children's church process run more smoothly and efficiently. Please contact Michelle Z with any questions.

Children's Church Instructions

Format:

1. Begin with short prayer
2. Present Lesson
3. Question/Response Time
4. Prayer
5. Activity

Prayer: Short prayer introducing the idea for the day and seeking God's Blessing on the study time.

Lesson: Present lesson in a creative and interesting way. Simply reading a Bible Story is fine but try to vary the lesson presentations. Examples: skits, special guests, puppet shows, overhead projector color slides, games, story boards, or whatever else you may come up with. Make sure you decide on a main point and reinforce it throughout the Children's Church time.

Question/Response: Use this time to reinforce the details of the lesson as you encourage insights and thoughts from the children. Have second team member place a sticker by each child's name on the attendance sheet as they answer or agree with answers given. This serves as a positive reinforcement as children participate in the discussion, as well as providing a means of keeping attendance.

Closing Prayer: Say a short prayer to tie in the main point of the lesson with our own personal lives.

Activity: This can vary greatly from a craft type of project to a learning-by-doing type of activity. Be creative and use ideas that allow the children to move, create, or participate in an active way. The activity should be directly related to the Bible story or the point being made in the lesson topic. By the end of Children's Church the kids should have something they take back to their seats that will remind them of the lesson. It can be as simple as a sticker or activity sheet or as involved as a full-blown craft project (time permitting) or multi-step activity with a specific outcome. Don't get caught up in producing a great work of art that takes the whole time slot. It's possible that the lesson and activity blend together and are not actually two separate events. Remember...The Bible lesson should dominate the time period.

Parent Information Handout: We keep a file of the parent info sheets for future reference and it would be helpful if everyone tried to use the same template. It consists of the Bible lesson focus, scripture passage used for the lesson, the main point you are making throughout the lesson, and resources used for the lesson (this would also indicate what the activity was, along with any other tools or books that were used.)The parent info sheet should basically sum up the 20 or 30 minutes of Children's Church for the day.

Additional Guidelines:

1. One teacher should gather the children at the back of the sanctuary and lead them quietly to the instruction area. The other teacher should welcome the children downstairs.
2. The Children's Church area is located on the lower level in the fellowship hall by the Noah's ark rug. The children may sit on the rug and pillows for the verbal part of the

lesson. A table will be present for craft or writing activities. Please avoid using the Sunday school areas as the S.S. teachers may have their lesson supplies in place.

3. Children's Church should end promptly at the end of Pastor's sermon (it should last 20-30 minutes). Have someone alert you that the sermon is almost over. The children should then line up and quietly walk back up to the sanctuary. Make every attempt to have them back in their seats prior to the beginning of prayers. (There have been discussions about getting sound to the lower level so teachers can yune in to what's happening upstairs if needed. We'll see what we can come up with.

4. The attendance chart is on the wall next to the C.C./S.S. supply cabinet. Please place one sticker by the appropriate name and date on the chart.

5. When a child has attended Children's Church 8 times, please give her a pre-wrapped "celebration gift" and let her know how great it is to have her at Children's Church. Make a note on the tally sheet (inside the cabinet door) that the child received a gift. The celebration gifts will be provided, numbered, and wrapped for you and stored in a container in the C.C./S.S. closet.

6. Supplies and resources will be kept in the C.C./S.S. cabinet. Feel free to use whatever helps you in the presentation of the lesson. Scissors, glue, markers, crayons, and paints are located on the Sunday school shelves. Assorted books are also placed throughout the area for your use. Please return items to their proper place.

7. Please make copies of the coloring and activity sheets rather than having the children color in the actual books. Any leftover copies can be placed in the "extras" folder for future emergency use.

8. Please make yourself familiar with other supplies that will be kept in the closet and store room. (Tape player, overhead projector, videos, puppets, puppet stage, etc.) Need something more? Ask around or call Carolyn S. (see Church Directory).

9. Children's Church teams are responsible for making their own teacher substitutions once they have signed up for a particular date.

10. Please turn in all receipts for money spent on supplies or materials, even if you are donating the items. This will allow us to track the cost of the program.