



CHURCH COMMUNICATION NETWORK
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: WHAT MATTERS MOST

Children's Ministry Teaching Skills: Secrets to Leading a Great Small Group

Featuring

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the Best Hour of Every Kid's Week

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I. Introduction and overview

The most important role in children's ministry is that of a small group leader

*The mediocre small group leader tells.
The good small group leader explains.
The superior small group leader demonstrates. But the great small group leader inspires.*
—Adapted from William Arthur Ward

II. The preparation factor

A. Personal preparation

If I had six hours to chop down a tree, I'd spend the first hour sharpening my axe.
—Abraham Lincoln

The greatest tool: a prepared heart

It's hard to lead kids to something you yourself don't live

1. Before your small group make sure you spend time _____ and _____
2. Study the _____ for yourself
3. Do an _____ check

B. Lesson preparation: "reading the directions"

You have to do it before you show up for church

1. Read through your _____ several times and be very _____ with it
2. _____ and _____ your lesson
3. If there's an activity, make sure you _____ it and think about how you're going to set it up
4. Know the key _____

Everything in the curriculum surrounds this

Let's Review:

The first key to becoming an inspirational small group leader is _____.

And preparation has 2 elements: The _____ Prep & The _____ Prep.

III. The connection factor

Video: A Day in the Life of Promiseland

A kid will want to come back week after week because they feel connected

Help the connecting happen

A. Establish clear guidelines

1. Arrange where and how your kids will _____

In a small group, every person needs to connect with every other person

2. Create _____

Go over the rules regularly

- Keep it simple
- Put it in the positive
- Hobson's Choice

3. Make sure you have a _____ in place

Have someone in place who can take care of a behavior off to the side

B. Creating a friendly, safe, and fun environment for kids to connect

Environment is key to help kids open up and connect

1. Continually, build a sense of _____.

Know some things about your kids and ask about them regularly

Look for your kids as soon as they walk through the door

2. Listen to your kids and ask them _____ questions

Listen with your eyes

Ask more than just yes-no questions: have them think and apply

3. Create an emotionally _____ environment

Kids in your group face struggles with self-esteem

*Anxiety weighs down the heart,
but a kind word cheers it up.*

—Proverbs 12:25

Your small group is a refuge, a “pit stop”

4. Be _____ and _____

“What are my non-verbals communicating to the kids?”

5. Make it _____

Build some surprises into your small group time

Learn how to be silly at appropriate times

**How can you create a friendly, safe, and fun environment for kids?
What are some ways you can make the following happen in your group?**

- Continually build a sense of belonging
- Listen to your kids and ask them open-ended questions
- Create an emotionally safe environment
- Be present and approachable
- Make it fun

C. Connecting with families and kids outside of the ministry hour

1. Connecting with kids outside of the ministry hour

2. Connecting with parents at the end of the hour

Think of positive things to say

If there are problems, put it in the positive and invite the parents into the solution

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Resources

“Today’s Children’s Ministry”
www.todayschildrensministry.com

Leading Kids to Jesus
by David Staal
www.willowcreek.org

Leading Your Child to Jesus
by David Staal
www.willowcreek.org

“Promiseland”
www.PromiselandOnline.com

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