



CHURCH COMMUNICATION NETWORK
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: WHAT MATTERS MOST

Building the Heart of a Children's Ministry

Building an Early Childhood Ministry

**Featuring
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the Best Hour of Every Kid's Week*

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Building the Heart of a Children's Ministry

I. Introduction and Overview

You've been called

But "What am I doing?"

He went up the mountain and called to him those whom he wanted, and they came to him. And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message...
—Mark 3:13-14

II. What mattered most to Jesus?

What's your priority?

What mattered most to Jesus?

The message: to call people to himself, and to seek and save the lost

III. The highest priority for a children's ministry

Help kids to become _____ and then _____.

But shouldn't you wait till children are a certain age?

It's never too early for God's created people to do the very thing he created them for: have a deep friendship with him.
—Dr. John Trent

If you don't have a path for kids in mind, you won't have a path in your ministry for them to follow

It is not the will of your Father in heaven that even one child should be lost.
—Matthew 18:14

- a sense of how the progression fits together

- so ministers have a clear sense of what they all do

V. A ministry pathway for kids

Infant to two years old

Jesus

They need to know Jesus and God really exist

Three to five years old

Jesus Loves

They need to know what Jesus and God have done

Kindergarten to first grade

.Jesus Loves Me

They need to know that Jesus wants a relationship with them

Second to third grade

This I Know

They need to be bold in their beliefs

Fourth to fifth grade

Yes! Jesus Loves Me

They need to be well anchored in their followership

When everyone knows the piece of the path and how the path goes together, everyone works better

Video clip: "Choose This Day"

Break (15 minutes)

Building an Early Childhood Ministry

I. Introduction and Overview

Goal: Learn next steps to building a thriving early childhood ministry

II. Cast a vision to your team

A. Your team needs a clear and compelling vision. That starts with you.

1. The most _____ years are ages 0-5
2. _____, _____, and _____ are formed which will stick for the rest of their lives
3. Kids have unbelievable trust and faith

Impact on _____

B. You are building a _____

1. Help kids understand that Jesus really existed and He loves them personally
2. Guide kids toward making a commitment to follow Jesus

III. Put the vision into action

A. Find a _____ that will support your _____.

What should I look for?

- Make sure the values align with your church's values
- Look at the scriptural truths being taught
- Look for a purposeful plan to what's being taught
- Look for lessons that are age-appropriate and child-targeted

B. How to implement it

1. Lead with confidence
2. Invite your team to be a part of the process
3. Keep your team in mind

IV. Assessing the needs of your ministry

- A. Be available and listen with an open mind
- B. Get to know families, kids, and volunteers in your ministry
- C. Include parents and volunteers in assessing
- D. Focus groups, mixed, of parents, educators, and volunteers

Resources

Making Your Children's Ministry the Best Hour of Every Kid's Week

by David Staal

www.willowcreek.org

"Promiseland"

www.PromiselandOnline.com

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