

MANAGING A GROUP

How do I keep younger children engaged?

Change activities often (every 5-7 minutes). Appeal to their senses through actions, simple visuals, participation, and enthusiasm.

Your lessons should match their understanding level and interests.

Be well prepared; if you take even a moment to look for something, you will lose them.



MANAGING A GROUP

How do I handle disruptive or stubborn children without embarrassing them?

Make expectations clear before you gather as a group, and praise them when they get it right, especially for activities you know they will struggle with.

Rather than saying, "Stop being naughty," explain the problem and/or expectation: "The others can't hear. Please sit nicely like I asked."

Stay calm; losing control gains nothing.

Sit close to or in between the children. It is not school, so get on the floor with them.



MANAGING A GROUP

How do I engage older children who show attitude in small group discussions because they are with friends?

Children this age want to feel important, so give them responsibility (handing out items, setting up). Many disruptive children are natural leaders who need guidance in being godly leaders. Responsibility often turns disruption into leadership.

Set clear expectations upfront: one person speaks at a time, respect others, make others feel safe to participate. If needed, address issues privately, not in front of friends.

Always remind them they are loved, valued, and respected.



MANAGING A GROUP

How do you get children who feel afraid and shy to get involved more easily?

Create a safe environment where they are not forced, but rather grow in confidence.

Let them respond without talking, such as nodding or doing an action. Pair them with a kind buddy or small group.

Celebrate small wins, such as eye contact, a high five, or a few words.



QUESTIONS ABOUT CHILDREN

What should you do when a child says an answer that stumps you?

If you are stumped because they have asked a question or referred to Scripture you do not know or understand, be real with the children. Research it together or get back to them at a later date.

If their reply is inappropriate, immediately state so by saying something like, “We don’t say things like that. I will chat to you later about why.”

Have a clear understanding for yourself of what Scripture says. Know the verses you will read with the child and how you will explain them. This is to avoid using confusing language or fumbling to find what to say in the moment. Remember, it is not about them repeating a “salvation prayer” after you, but rather them wanting to respond by believing and choosing Jesus as the Lord of their life once they have an understanding and revelation of who Jesus is.

QUESTIONS ABOUT CHILDREN

How do I get kids excited about Children’s Church?

Children mirror your behaviour, so start by being genuinely excited about church and your relationship with Jesus.

It’s easy to fall into the trap of trying to entertain, but our goal isn’t performance; it’s to present the Gospel in a way that is real, engaging, and irresistible. Most children return to Children’s Church because they feel loved, safe, happy, and welcomed.

QUESTIONS ABOUT CHILDREN

How do I guide a child who wants to accept Jesus?



QUESTIONS ABOUT CHILDREN

What age can a child be baptized?

It is vital that parents are the ones who make this decision with their child. Even if you know they will agree with it, they would probably like to be part of this important moment in their child’s life.

Our recommendation is that it is not about age, but rather about their understanding of what baptism is and why they want to do it. Baptism does not save them; it is an act of obedience to show what Jesus has done.



QUESTIONS FOR LEADERS

How can I do better as a Children's Church leader?

Build a strong close relationship with Jesus!

There are so many practical things, such as preparing well, studying the Word, being stretched, and going to training, etc. But knowing Jesus well and loving Him, His Word, and His will is what will most impact your children.



QUESTIONS FOR LEADERS

How do I determine whether I should be a leader at Children's Church?

Loving and authentically following Jesus is what qualifies you, not your skill set. The Bible calls all believers to make disciples and train the next generation, including children. So we all have a part to play.

Ask yourself honestly why you want to be a leader at Children's Church. If it is to honour God, serve Him, and help the next generation follow Jesus, then you have the heart of the ministry and God may be prompting you.

QUESTIONS FOR LEADERS

How do we get and keep leaders committed and growing spiritually?

In our experience, relationship building is super valuable. Support, honesty, accountability, commitment, and inspiration all become a lot easier when your team becomes a family doing God's work together. People are also more eager to join a family than be a spoke in a wheel.

Clearly explain the heart of Children's Church, address misconceptions, and set expectations early so leaders continue to grow and stay committed.



QUESTIONS FOR LEADERS

How should leader conflict be handled?

Address issues early, privately, and respectfully. Speak with grace, listen carefully, and seek unity rather than winning an argument. If needed, involve leadership.

If issues negatively affect the children in your care, take action immediately with your overseeing deacon or elder.



SAFETY & RESPONSIBILITY

How do I protect myself from accusations?

Your actions should always be above reproach, both during and after Children's Church, so people would recognise immediately that the accusation does not match your character.

Be accountable to your deacon.

Do not be alone with a child, as what they say carries much more weight than your word.



SAFETY & RESPONSIBILITY

What is your Children's Church emergency plan?

If you don't have an emergency plan, it's time to put one in place. Make sure prevention measures are covered, such as security, locking away dangerous materials, and maintaining the venue.

Clearly communicate emergency procedures, meeting points, emergency numbers, and first aid information to all leaders.

SAFETY & RESPONSIBILITY

What are the legal requirements to have a Children's Church?

While there are no specific "Children's Church" laws, the Children's Act, 2005 (Act 38 of 2005) applies. It requires checking that leaders are not on the register of people unsuitable to work with children, which we do through police clearances. The Act also covers children's rights and safety.

Other legal requirements, like venue capacity, fire escapes, and health and safety, must also be met to ensure everything is done with excellence.

SAFETY & RESPONSIBILITY

What do I do if a child tells me something serious or concerning?

Anyone working with children must report if they have reasonable grounds to believe a child has been abused, physically injured, sexually abused, or deliberately neglected.

Immediately tell your deacon or elder and, together, report it to child welfare or police officials. This is a legal duty; failure to report suspected abuse can lead to legal consequences.



QUESTIONS ABOUT CHILDREN

How do I equip children to evangelise?

Let sharing what they know and their love for Jesus be a normal part of every week.

Use object lessons or crafts they can use to explain what they've learnt, and give them verses or items to clip to their bags as conversation starters.

Encourage them to write letters or draw pictures for old age homes, feeding schemes, or mission trips, and give them opportunities to invite friends to events, Children's Church, or Youth Group.



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