

# Developing a Children's Worship Ministry

For churches considering a children's worship time, there is a lot to think about. What do we want to teach our children about worship? How do we want this time to impact their spiritual growth? What impact will our leadership have on the kids during this time? How do we evaluate our effectiveness? These pages are designed to assist a church as it follows God's leadership in planning this special time.

## Define your purpose

Do you want this to look like an extended Sunday school/Bible study time?

Do you want it to look like a worship service?

How do you want children to be impacted spiritually—what goals do you have?

How do you want to address things that usually lead to family spiritual conversations (when children see baptism and the Lord's Supper)?

## Determine your details

What ages will be involved?

Will we separate younger and older children?

Who will lead this time?

Consistency is important. Discipline issues decrease and spiritual growth increases with consistent workers. Will the same people lead each week or will there be a rotating group every other week or will there be new people each week? What training will our leaders receive?

How many leaders do we need?

Every children's class needs a minimum of 2 leaders—this is for safety and security as well as quality teaching with minimum distractions. More leaders are needed based on the ages and number of children. Ideally, for preschool children, 1 leader for every 4 and for elementary 1 leader for every 6-8. These leaders help with small group time, building relationships, modeling worship and classroom management.

## Elements of a Children's Worship Time

*Core elements:*

Music --active songs with motions as well as songs sung by your church

Lesson time --the core of this time is the lesson, but it can also include elements such as children reading scripture, learning a memory verse and skits/drama. It is also important to allow children a chance to respond to God's word, especially if you are sharing the plan of salvation. This can be done as an invitation to talk with a teacher or as a group response/invitation time.

Application—small group time where the truth of the lesson is applied to daily life; this can include games, crafts or any type of active learning

Prayer—both large group and small group prayer experiences are important for children; this time can include praying for missions, your church prayer list and any requests the children have

*Optional elements:*

Offering  
Bible skills  
Bible memory  
Missions moments  
Refreshments

**Sample Schedules:**

**One Hour Schedule**

*Large Group:*

15 minutes music (include offering time)  
20 minutes lesson time

*Small Group:*

20 minutes application  
10 prayer and share time

**One and a Half Hour Schedule**

*Large Group:*

15 minutes music (include offering time)  
20 minutes lesson time  
10 minute mission moment

*Small Group:*

15 minutes application  
10 minute refreshment time  
10 minutes Bible skill/Bible memory time  
10 prayer and share time

**Keys to success**

- Prayer
- Consistent, prepared leadership
- Teaching with a purpose
- Plan for the age you are teaching... remember to incorporate learning approaches and hands on learning (for example a 20 minute lesson time might have 4 different parts to keep kids engaged)
- Evaluate regularly to make sure you are on target

For more information on starting a children's worship ministry at your church or for a list of possible resources, contact Allison Kizzia at 501-375-4791 ext 5193 or email [akizzia@absc.org](mailto:akizzia@absc.org).