

The Children's/Kids' Club

(1) Why choose a Children's Club?

1. Provides a means for children of similar ages to and make and deepen friendships.
2. Christian leaders are able in an informal situation to develop friendships and engage in a diverse range of activities.
3. Opportunity is given to reach children and parents who rarely if ever attend Church, effectively being a springboard for further contact.
4. Offers greater flexibility than a Sunday School or sports club in: building relationships and fostering creativity.
5. The club encourages a sense of belonging which fosters pride in, loyalty to and appreciation of what is provided.

(2) Characteristics of Children's Club Leaders

They should:

- exhibit a strong, active Christian faith and see service at the Club as serving God
- like working with children and be able to get on their wavelength
- display leadership qualities, show ability as good communicators, and be in control where discipline is necessary
- listen patiently to others; be consistent in attitude, not be easily provoked, not flappable, and display patience and perseverance
- be willing to train others, and be trained themselves
- relate well to parents, and be trusted by them

(3) The Purpose of the Church Children's Club

1. To communicate the Christian Faith in ways that are relevant, attractive and challenging to children. To this end, the leader's Christian example and witness is crucial.
2. Through an appropriate programme geared to age and ability, to enable the children to develop physically, mentally, socially, morally and spiritually.
3. To provide a means for social development, particularly in developing a sense of personal worth, self discipline and confidence.
4. To stimulate friendships between children and children, and children and adults, particularly creating links between the children and the Church which may lead to future commitment and a sense of belonging.

(4) Administration of a Children's Club

Its affairs need to be directed and organised simply, unobtrusively and efficiently.

1. Organisational Structure

The command structure needs to be clearly defined and understood by the whole leadership team.

2. Membership Register and Attendance Roll

Some paper work is necessary. It is important to know correct names, addresses and telephone numbers and pattern of attendance. Absences should be followed up.

3. Child Protection Issues

Careful attention needs to be paid to the implementation of good practice guidelines

4. Communication with Parents

Parents' **interest** and possible involvement is fostered through clear communication. Parents' **permission** is sought for their child's membership.

5. Financial Matters

A **treasurer** needs to be appointed and a bank account opened. A petty cash float is held for week-by-week essentials.

6. Supervision of Children

As they arrive greet them and introduce them to some **activity**. All leaders share in supervision. Work out a system so that children can be safely dismissed at the end.

(5) The Programme

Good programmes only happen with **careful planning**. Ingredients will probably be selected from:

- Games, prayers, devotions, worship, Bible stories & video
- Learning or discovery times
- Craft activities, music/ singing
- Special events, opening and closing activities
- Refreshments

(6) Games

1. Letting off steam games
2. Circle games
3. Team games
4. Relay games
5. Quiet games
6. Wide games
7. Memory games

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