

Children's Services



A. Points to note

1. It is a **service of worship** - not a concert!
2. The more people you involve the harder it is to **co-ordinate**.
3. Remember that the whole service will be **child-centred**.
4. Adults, generally, will be **sympathetic** to children's mistakes if not to yours!
5. **Communication** is quite critical with all interested (and not so interested!) parties.
6. **Publicise** dates for children's services well in advance.
7. Ensure that **sufficient time** is available for necessary practices.
8. **Speakers should be invited** well in advance - especially for May/ June or Oct.

B. Consultation & co-operation

1. Who is **in charge**? - minister, assistant minister, S.S. Superintendent or?
2. If responsibility is **delegated consult** the minister at every stage.
3. If a visiting minister/speaker is doing the talk, let him/her know what the **theme** is.
4. **Consult** the **organist** at an early stage.
5. If the choir are not to sit in their normal places, **sensitively** address this.
6. If children are to be removed from Sunday School for **rehearsal**, inform the teacher.
7. **Book** those responsible for **audio visuals well in advance** for rehearsals.
8. **Try not to impose** something on those who work with children all year round.
9. Make it clear that any script for a play or departure from previous "safe" practice must be presented to the minister for **approval**.
10. Show **personal interest** in the planning stage so that all feel that it is a team effort.

C. Implementation

1. **Meet** with key leaders of Sunday School & Bible Class and prayerfully plan.
2. **Select music** in consultation with interested parties.
3. Choose **Scripture reading** (s) and children to read. Determine which translation.
4. Will children/ teachers/ or self do **prayers**? What assistance is necessary?
5. If **offering** is to be collected by children then planning & practice are essential.
6. Decide on the nature of the overall **involvement** of children.
7. Where is the **talk/ sermon** located in the order of service? It could be split into 2 or 3 parts and interspersed through the service - or have a simpler children's talk for the younger ones early on & a talk for the older children at the sermon time.
8. Decide which age group you are **aiming** at.
9. Avoid **overloading** the programme.
10. Consider carefully who **leads** the service.
11. Have sufficient pews/ chairs **roped** off for the children if they are sitting together.
12. Agree a time for the children to **leave the halls** to get into church.
13. Have a **box** available for little ones to stand on if necessary, at the lectern.

D. Presentation

1. Try to start the service on time.
2. **Insist** on proper use of mikes.
3. If time is overrunning **badly** - cut something (probably a congregational singing).
4. Make sure that anything that needs to be seen **can be seen** - perhaps use staging.
5. Keep the service **moving** along - don't let things drag.
6. **Engage** the children right from the start by speaking to them, involving them.
7. **Thank** participants after they have done their bit and try to put them at their ease.
8. Make sure that the **theme runs like a thread** throughout and that the point is well made.

E. Evaluation

What went **well** and why?

What **problems** did I experience & how could they have been **avoided**?

Did I **achieve** what I set out to achieve?

If I were to repeat this, what would I do **differently**?

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