

Always model Christ's love for children.

- Children learn Jesus loves them as they sense the adults in their lives love them.
- Children need to know they are loved and accepted for who they are, not for what they do or how they behave.

Be an example.

- If you want children to do as you say, then do what you say.
- If you want children to actively participate, then participate with them.
- Children will follow your actions more than your words.

Consistency is key.

- Work with the other children's ministry leaders in your church in regards to what is expected of the children.
- What is expected in one ministry should be the same for others.
- Children are easily confused when there are different standards with different ministries.

Do not expect too much.

- Children are not little adults; they are children and they need time to be children.

Explain activities before giving out resources.

- It is difficult for children to listen to the rules of an activity while holding equipment or other materials.
- Explain the rules before handing out supplies.

Find time to know what is going on in a child's world.

- Events such as a new baby, new job, a move or divorce can dramatically affect a child's behavior.

Give choices when possible.

- Make sure, though, that the choices are ones you are willing to accept.

Hold children accountable for their actions.

- Children need to learn there are results to their actions, and they may need help accepting the consequences of their behavior.
- This means both positive and negative consequences.

Involve men in your ministry.

- Children's behavior tends to be different when there is a positive male role model in the room.
- Enlist men to serve in your ministry. Children need positive male role models in their lives.

Judge what is “misbehaving” and what are simply childhood characteristics.

- It is important to separate the child's behavior from the child, and understand what are normal childhood developmental characteristics, attitudes, and abilities.

**Know the children's likes,
dislikes, hobbies, interests,
and so forth.**

- Select activities that fulfill their likes.

Love each child.

- Children need to know there are adults who love them and want the best for them.
- No child should be made to feel unloved when she is at church.

Meet the needs of the children.

- Make sure the physical, mental, emotional social, and spiritual needs of the children are met.
- If any one of these needs not being met, it will affect the child's behavior.

Notice children's “good” behavior.

- Catch children doing things the way you would like for them to do things.
- Reinforce their positive behavior.

Observe what the child's home life is like.

- Children act out what they see and experience at home.
- Visit children in their homes, and discover what their home lives are like.

Pray, pray, pray.

- This should be your first step in dealing with any behavioral issues.
- Pray before, during, and after the session for each child and leader by name.
- Pray for yourself that God will give you the peace and patience to deal with any situation which may arise.

**Quickly deal
with any
unsafe situation.**

**Respect the rights of the
children.**

- No child deserves to have his self-esteem destroyed because of his behavior.
- When it is necessary to redirect a child, make sure it is done in a manner that will not destroy the child's self esteem.

State what is expected.

- Children will live up to your expectations.
- Let the children know what is expected of them.

Take the initiative to participate with the children.

Children need to see you learning with them, playing games with them, and enjoying the session.

Utilize additional adults when dealing with behavioral situations that may arise.

a Void calling down every negative action a child does.

- It is OK to overlook some stuff.

Work with other adults.

- Make sure the teacher/child ratio is maintained.

X marks the spot.

- Be in your spot, prepared and ready when the first child arrives.

Yelling accomplishes nothing.

Lower your voice, and the child will lower his.

Be Zealous for children.

- Stand up for them, and be their voice.
- When they know you are on their side, they are more likely to do what you ask them to do.