

A Mobile Preschool Department: Tips for Teaching in Unconventional Space

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Teaching preschoolers in a movie theater? “No way,” I thought—until I recalled a list of principles I had always adhered to in teaching preschoolers.

Safety
Cleanliness
Relationships
Age-appropriate teaching/materials
Learning areas
Sound Bible teaching
Appropriate teacher-child ratio

Could we make it safe? Yes!

- Room-sized carpets covering the floor space.
- Barriers to unusable spaces.
- A security system

Could we make it clean? Yes!

- A ready source of warm water.
- Adult-sized folding tables for cleaning supplies, diaper-changing supplies, preschoolers’ and teachers’ belongings, teaching resources
- easy-to-clean and replace room-sized carpets, quilts, and vinyl mats
- washable toys and teaching supplies.

Could we maintain open, caring relationships? Yes!

- Loving and caring -- a heart issue, not environmental issue.
- Greeting preschoolers and parents with a smile—always!

Could we provide learning areas/centers? A challenge! But Yes!

- Not centers equipped with child-sized homeliving equipment, block shelves, and table/chairs—but Bible-learning activities? Yes!
- Learning areas defined with mat, quilt, or flannel-backed vinyl tablecloth—depending on the age-group and activity.
- Blocks, cars, dolls, dishes, books, puzzles, nature items, art activities, leader pack items, group time—on the floor? No problem. Preschoolers are “floor people” by nature.

Good Bible teaching? Certainly!

- Curriculum and Read-to-Me Bibles for Kids—use them!

Prepared teachers—always key!

- Could we provide an appropriate teacher/child ratio? Of course!
- Fervent prayer, ministry promotion, and good enlistment practices are key, not environment challenges.

Preschoolers in a theater, in a school, in an office building? It will work. Just adhere to principles of good preschool ministry and have storage bins and a closet or trailer nearby.