



What are the essentials for children’s ministry in the church?

There’s lots to think about in children’s ministry ... like location, curriculum, safety, training volunteers, games, prayer, and much more.

So where do we begin? What are the prerequisites? Using the acrostic WORDS, and informed by God’s Word, here are the five vital practices that should characterize children’s ministry in every church:

Worship – “Worship God acceptably with reverence and awe” Hebrews 12:28. In both attitude and action, worship is focusing our hearts, souls and minds on Jesus. Children should worship God actively, cheerfully, relevantly, creatively, sacrificially, reverentially and wholeheartedly (1 Chronicles 16:23-31, Psalm 100, Mark 12:30, John 4:23-24, Romans 12:1-2).

Outreach – “Be my witnesses” Acts 1:8. Together with our children we must reach out and introduce others to Jesus, invite them to join the church, and involve them in the five essential practices of the church (Mark 16:15, Romans 10:14).

Relationships – “In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus” Philippians 2:5. We must train and inspire children to support, strengthen and sustain one another in their relationships with Jesus and others (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, John 13:34, 1 Corinthians 16:14, Ephesians 4:32).

Discipleship – “Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” 2 Peter 3:18. To help children grow spiritually we must edify, educate, encourage, equip, and exhort them to become more like Jesus in their thoughts, words and deeds (Matthew 28:19-20, John 15:16, Ephesians 4:16).

Service – “Faith without deeds is dead” James 2:26. Children must serve others with their God given gifts and abilities in the church (ministry) and in the world (missions). (Mark 10:45, John 12:26, Galatians 5:13, Philippians 2:2, Colossians 3:23-24, 2 Timothy 2:15, 1 John 3:18).

Integrate the five practices into your ministry strategy and methodology and you’ll see children reached, rescued, rooted and released to love and live for Jesus in their families, communities, and nations.

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