

We need to know WHY Children's Ministry is so important!

Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go and **when he is old he will not depart from it**

- **This** is the basic, operating premise of Children's Ministry

Frederick Douglas said, "It is better to build strong children than to repair broken men"

Statistics - Let's check the NUMBERS....

Barna Research Group Study

AGES PEOPLE GET INTO CHURCH

- 23% OVER age 21
- 77% UNDER age 21

The 77% breaks down to:

- 13% between 18 and 21
- 21% between 14 and 18
- **43% before 13 years old**

"The longer you wait, the less likely you are to get someone in church"

"By the time a child is 9 years old their basic moral foundation has been formed"

By 13 a person has nearly irrevocably formed the majority of their beliefs about:

- The nature of God
- The reliability of the bible
- What the afterlife really is
- and more

"Give me a child until he is 7 and I will show you the man"

"There is a 9 year window of opportunity between 4 and 13 that people are most open to spiritual teaching"

What do these statistics mean?

- Children's ministry **is important to the growth of a church**
- Bus ministries are important to the growth of a church
- If you are working in Children's Ministry that you **ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE**
- You are **NOT** a babysitter but a soul winner
- The children of our churches demand our **BEST** not our leftovers

Children's ministry and bus ministries are long term commitments!

HOW can we get better at it?

The **BEST** children's workers are always excited at the prospect of learning something new.

We get filled up so God can pour us out again to others.

SIX steps to a long-term successful children's ministry:

1. Have a burden for kids
2. Get more kids to come
3. Make them want to come back
4. Teach them how to be saved
5. Give them the opportunity to be saved
6. Disciple them and transition them from "bus" kids to saints of God who live for God on their own

THESE ARE THE GOALS WE SHOULD BE SHOOTING FOR IN EVERYTHING WE DO IN SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BUS MINISTRY

CHARACTERISTICS OF GREAT CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WORKERS

- HAVE PASSION
 - One definition of passion is: when you put more energy, thought, and intensity into your pursuit than is required
- THEY DO WHAT THEY NEED TO DO (NO MATTER WHAT)
 - "Successful people do what they know they are supposed to do, whether they felt like it or not"
- HAVE A VISION – SET GOALS
- THEY ARE ON TIME (EARLY)
- THEY ARE CONSISTENT, RELIABLE AND DEPENDABLE
- THEY ARE BE BETTER THAN EXPECTED
- THEY ARE NOT AFRAID OF HARD WORK
- THEY PLAN AHEAD
- THEY ROUTINELY EVALUATE YOUR PERFORMANCE
- THEY NEVER KNOW IT ALL
- THEY ARE GOOD ROLE MODELS
- THEY GET TO KNOW THE KIDS
 - Learn names
 - Talk to them, find out about them, ask them how they are doing and LISTEN AND REACT
- THEY ARE EXCITING
- THEY ARE CREATIVE
- THEY ARE ENTHUSIASTIC
- THEY ARE FUN
- THEY KEEP THINGS FRESH
- THEY ARE NOT BORING
- THEY MAKE THEIR CLASS OR BUS LOOK EXCITING
- THEY THINK BIG
- THEY DO OUTREACH
- THEY DO FOLLOW-UP
- THEY CREATE A TIME FOR GOD TO MOVE EVERY WEEK
- THEY REACH INTO THE HOME
- THEY ANTICIPATE AND ARE PREPARED FOR PROBLEMS