

REALITY CHECK: “*Why do you think your kids come to your Sunday School?*”

As kids’ ministers we have a vision and expectations of how things are going to turn out, but what if we stopped and asked ourselves, “*What do my kids expect when they come to Sunday School?*”

If we meet our kids’ expectations, there is a greater chance for them to meet ours.

Realizing the power of play:

- Engages the kids on their level to interact with the content of Sunday School
- Connects kids with each other and with your Sunday School staff
- Can reinforce the content presented through other methods of teaching
- KIDS HAVE FUN PLAYING GAMES!

Below is five ways you can incorporate games with your lesson plan and some examples to accompany each:

1. Teaching a Memory Verse

Connect the Words (similar to connect the dots, but with words from the memory verse placed at random. Materials: poster board, brads, twine)

Erase-a-Word (write the full verse on a whiteboard, kids take turns erasing a word of their choice, repeating the full verse after every turn until the verse is completely erased)

Unscramble the Verse: Balloon Pop Relay, Paper Balls, Memory Verse Hunt...

2. Reinforcing a Story

Mummy Wrap Relay (teach how someone is given specific clothes to wear after they die – it’s final. Even though Lazarus was dead in his grave clothes for four days Jesus raised him from the grave!)

Kingsman, Daniel, Lion (Similar to Rock, Paper, Scissors. Kingsman beats Daniel, Daniel beats Lion, Lion beats Kingsman)

Jericho Siege (Split into two teams, give them time to build a wall with boxes and other materials, then play dodgeball with folded socks or light balls with the added agenda of knocking down the opponent's wall. We could imagine tearing down a walled fortress with weapons, but God just used the praises of His people and they didn't have to even touch the Wall of Jericho!)

3. Reinforcing a Concept

Telephone (teach about gossip by whispering something in a child's ear. The secret is told to each child around the class until it gets back to the first child told. Hear how the original has been twisted after it goes around.)

Paper Ball War (teach how you can't take a break from living for God by splitting into two teams, line up paper balls in the middle of the room, at the start of the music they grab as many balls and throw them on the opposing teams side of the room. After a few minutes, stop the music, count the balls, the one with the least amount on their side wins!)

Toothpaste Relay: (Teach about kindness by having the kids race to empty a tube of toothpaste – representing our words and actions. The first to empty their tube wins. Have them try to put the toothpaste back to show that you can't take back your words and actions once they're said and done.)

4. To Have FUN With Your Kids!

Minute-to-Win it Games

Relays

Jump Rope/Hula-Hoop/Traditional Games (Heads-Up-Seven-Up, etc)

While these games are a treat for the kids, be aware of the limited time we have to teach. Use only on special occasions or if you have extra time.

5. Trivia Games

Simple Trivia Q&A's

Bible Baseball

Bible Verse/Story Quizzing (Using a quiz box)

There is an abundance of game ideas online you could incorporate with your lesson plan, just be sure you understand the game thoroughly and have any necessary material together BEFORE hand. Background music can be a huge supplement to the energy of playing games.