

Cool Teaching Tips



Written by Diane Smith

Perhaps, what I've learned will benefit you as you guide your children to learn of God.

- I cannot do everything! That's a great reason for team teaching, having at least 2 leaders with each class/group of children. And there are more ideas in the leader's magazine than we could ever do.
- I don't use the pupil's leaflet in class. It's non-challenging! If I want children to know that information, I will put it into a different form, i.e., a comparison chart, a memory game.
- To choose Bible activities based on what children would enjoy doing rather than what the teacher likes.
- Some of the early arrival activities listed at the beginning of the unit (if you are using LifeWay "Bible Teaching for Kids" literature) have enough "content" for an activity during the activity/choice time of the learning session.
- To keep copies of the unit songs! Once I discard (in the recycling bin) the teacher's magazine or a resource kit, I no longer have the words to the songs. Place the songs in plastic cover sheets and file alphabetically in notebook.
- To set up a book area using a beanbag chair, a tent similar to what Abraham may have used, a straw mat, or a sheepskin. Of course, put there 2 or 3 books that relate to theme for the month. Change the book area each month; add a new book each Sunday.
- To use overhead projector or LCD project (Powerpoint) to project songs on the wall; this saves much time! I no longer print words on chart paper. (Check with Minister of Music for "permission number" to use when using copyrighted materials.)
- To group children for care/ministry groups by geographical regions; grouping by regions makes visiting easier & therefore more likely to happen!
- Children still like to play freeze tag! Socials/parties/fellowships (whatever word you want to use) are an important part of spiritual growth. Children enjoy (and NEED) socializing and fellowshiping.
- Children need ritual. I close our learning time with a prayer; then I say to the children "The Lord be with you." The children respond "And with you." When I have forgotten to do this, they remind me immediately! (Do you think they need to be "blessed"?)
- To smile much & to laugh often! Faith involves the emotions as well as the head; "heart" knowledge is just as important as "head" knowledge. From "heart" knowledge comes "behavior."
- Children need to hear their names called in prayer. Imagine the "power" of knowing that someone is praying for you!
- To leave message on Voice Mail if child isn't home when I phone. Always identify yourself and your church.
- Children still enjoy receiving "snail mail." So, we send cards ("Thank you for learning all of your Bible verses in October!"; "Thank you for being part of the drama.") often!
- The first person in the classroom is in charge! So, I'm in the classroom before the first child arrives. This also tells the child that Bible study is so important that I'm in the classroom early.
- To relish those times when child arrives early (because Mom or Dad is teaching). Child's early arrival provides us with more time to talk one-to-one; to share "Did you know....?" to work a puzzle; more time for learning.
- Children don't always have the framework for understanding words or concepts. We talk about Ephesians being written to "Church at Ephesus". A better phrasing is "believers or Christ-followers at Ephesus." Why? Children see a church building rather than a group of people. Do children know what a creek or a brook is (Elijah)?
- Perhaps most importantly, I am modeling for children how to be a Christian!

For more information contact Diane Smith, Children's Ministry Strategist, Emerging Leaders Team
800.ALL.BGAV Ext. 2256, diane.smith@vbmb.org



**KINGDOM
ADVANCE™**
Virginia Baptists on Mission

Made possible by the generous Cooperative Missions
gifts of Virginia Baptist Churches affiliated with the
Baptist General Association of Virginia.

www.vbmb.org