

SBC Kids Ministry Plan

Purpose

The Children's Ministry at Southland Baptist Church seeks to provide a loving and accepting environment for all children. It is our desire that spiritual foundations be laid and children can learn to apply spiritual truths to their everyday lives.

Goals

- Implement a plan for teaching that connects the ministries of our children, birth-18.
- Help children to know Jesus and grow in a relationship with Him.
- Make sure children are welcomed and able to participate in corporate worship.
- Connect parents with the teaching that happens in the classroom.
- Encourage and equip children's ministry volunteers on a weekly basis.
- Create a place that children feel safe, have fun, and learn.

Education

1. Teaching plan connecting children's ministry from birth to 18 years

- This objective is currently at work with the use of Orange strategy in preschool, children, and youth ministries. The Orange strategy starts with two individual influences in a child's life; home and church. Alone, these two work hard to ensure that every child has a better future. But when they are combined, the home and church will have a greater impact on the life of a child. Our church wants to team up with parents to have this big impact on our children's lives.
- We also emphasize small group relationships with volunteers that let children know they are loved. We believe that when a child feels known, loved, and cared for, we will have a better environment for learning the Bible stories each week. Teenagers and Pre-teens have the opportunities to serve alongside adults in younger children's ministry as small group leaders or worship leaders as well.

2. Sunday and Wednesday Discipleship Times

- Each week, children are taught the stories of our faith from the Bible on Sundays and Wednesdays.
- Sundays we are "digging in" to the Word where kids walk in Jesus' footsteps from his birth to his resurrection and ascension. Each lesson engages children with the Bible truth through reading, games, crafts, videos, object lessons, and more.
- We emphasize how to find scripture stories in the Bible by discussing the system of books of the Bible, chapter numbers, and verse numbers. Kids have the opportunity to practice looking up the Bible verses each week.
- Wednesday nights children receive missions education during InsideOut. The mission adventures are where we learn about God's love while experiencing different ways people love others around the world and locally. We want to connect children to Southland's missionaries in the community and around the world. We want kids to understand that no matter where they are in life, they are on mission at all times.

3. Corporate worship

- Children are not merely tolerated, but they are warmly welcomed into corporate worship.
- Children participate in the corporate worship service, through sitting with their parents, singing in the kid's choir, scripture reading, prayer, children's sermons, passing the offering plate, object lessons, dramas, and special holiday/events (Palm Sunday, Kindergarten Bible Dedication, OCC Boxes, Offerings, etc.)

Communication

1. Clear Communication with Parents

- Communication for children's ministry is available through monthly newsletters, weekly blog and Facebook posts, weekly text messages, the church website, word of mouth, handouts given to the children, announcements in the bulletin, worship slides, and from the pulpit.
- A monthly newsletter is mailed out to all parents of children K-4th grade. The newsletter includes information about the upcoming month's Sunday school and Wednesday night lessons, prayer requests, ways to get involved, children's calendar, and any other information pertaining to our children.
- Blog posts are made at least twice a week letting parents know what their children are learning and how they can actively engage them in discussion throughout the week. These are called "Parent Cues" and can be found at www.southlandbaptistkids.org
- Facebook posts are made each week letting parents know what their children are learning and how they can actively engage them in discussion throughout the week. These can be found at www.facebook.com/sbckids.
- Text messages are sent out each week connecting parents to the blog posts, reminding them of what their kids are learning, for encouragement, and upcoming events. These texts are generally sent out on Mondays and Thursdays.

2. Clear Communication with Volunteers

- Monthly breakfasts for children's volunteers to fellowship, discuss the children's ministry, ask questions, and make announcements.
- Communicate weekly with volunteers to make sure they have what they need, curriculum is understood, and for any other needs they may have.
- Pray weekly for volunteers.

Safety

1. Safety and Security is a top priority for our children's ministry

- Two adult volunteers per children's classroom as lined out in our Safety training.
- All Volunteers must have a background check and go through training.
- Youth volunteers are allowed to help with InsideOut or other special events, but they are not considered one of the two minimum adult helpers.
- Children must be signed out by an adult on Wednesday evenings before they can leave the children's area.
- New check-in system coming sometime in 2017.
- Committees are discussing potential for new, remodeled, or reorganized children's space.