

about this questionnaire

This questionnaire is a gleaning from questions included in previous section: [Twenty-Five Lessons Learned in Children's Ministry at CHBC](#). They are the ones we most frequently ask people when they are thinking through customizing a curriculum to fit their situation. Ideally, each member of your Children's Ministry team/church leadership would answer these questions individually first, then meet together to discuss them. We hope they provide you with solid insight that will help you in choosing and customizing whatever curriculum you are considering.

The questions are grouped into eight categories:

- Ministry Foundations
- Children
- Classroom
- Teachers
- Facilities and Resources
- Parents
- In the Worship Service
- New Curriculum
- Ministry Reflections

A Word of Caution:

This questionnaire is like going to the doctor for your annual physical. You go because you want to get a complete picture of your health, even if it means that you see some things you don't like. Chances are you are about to see some things you really like and some things that you don't like. That will always be true, this side of heaven. **That is why at the bottom of each page we have included two questions: "What can I thank God for? What can I Ask God to help us do?"** These are reminders that God has been good and used us--even us--to bless others. And, that with His help, we can become an even greater blessing to them.

Use the findings from this questionnaire to thank God for what He has done. Use them as points of prayer. And, use them to humbly, with God's help, one step at a time, to work towards even better service to the families and to the Lord.

The Children's Ministry Questionnaire

MINISTRY FOUNDATIONS:

1. What is your setting for teaching kids? (VBS, AWANAS, after school program, school, Sunday School, Children's Church; Church evening program, outreach to non-Christians, English as a second language group.

2. Do you have a statement of faith that provides a foundation for the truths you believe and teach? If not, what are the Biblical truths that under-gird your ministry?

3. Do you have a mission statement for what you hope to do within this ministry? If not, what would it be?

4. Who provides leadership over your Children's Ministry? Have the church leaders provided guidance as to what they want the children to learn?

5. What staff support (paid or volunteer) does your Children's Ministry have? What do they do?

6. Do you have a child protection policy? Is it enforced? How do you screen prospective teachers?

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CHILDREN:

7. How many children do you usually have in total? What's your break-down by age/grade?

8. Describe, in general, the children who come/you hope will participate in this program and their parents. Are they well-taught or have they never heard the gospel... or something in between?

9. What are the children like, developmentally/academically? How well can they read or write? Do they tend to like seat work or are they active? Are there children who have needs that will need special assistance? What kind?

10. Do the same children attend regularly or do you have many one-off attendees? If many one-off attendees, why?

CLASSROOM:

11. When do/you will you meet with the children (day of week, time of day, etc)? How long is your teaching period?

12. How do you split up the children in their classes? Do you combine children with very different development abilities (such as pre-schoolers and elementary age kids/ readers and pre-readers) into the same class? What are those different abilities you are trying to accommodate? What has worked well?

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13. How likely are behavior problems to seriously disrupt the class time? What types? Do your teachers feel confident and well-equipped to meet these problems? What has been done to improve the issues or to help the teachers?

14. What kind of schooling do these children receive (public, private, home-school; Christian/secular)? Has this affected how/when/what you teach the children? In what ways?

15. Do the children understand what they as they learn in class? Do they enjoy what they do in class? Do they remember what they've learned?

TEACHERS:

16. Describe your teachers: (younger/older; enthusiastic/worn-out; spiritually mature/immature; dependable/unreliable; experienced/inexperienced, show up late/early, etc.)

17. How do you get new teachers to volunteer? For what period of time do they volunteer?

18. How do you train new teachers?

19. If a teacher needs a substitute to teach for them, how do they get one? Is this frequently a problem? Why?

20. How much prep is a teacher required to do to be ready to teach? How much prep work does the Children's Ministry staff do? Are teachers usually reliable in doing the prep work they are called to do? How much is a good amount to ask the teachers to do?

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FACILITIES & RESOURCES:

21. What are your facilities like? Do you have storage? Can you put visual aids up on the walls?

22. What is your budget for Children's Ministry resources like? What equipment/resources do you have on hand already?

23. Are you frequently faced with a limited resources--money, teachers, space, time, equipment, etc? If so, what resources are you lacking? How does this affect what you do?

PARENTS

24. How well-equipped are the parents in their role as primary spiritual care-givers of their children? Do you feel like your children's programs are carrying the majority of the weight or only supporting what the parents are doing? What has been done to try to better equip the parents, where needed?

25. How involved are most parents in what their children are learning in class? What kind of take home resources would you like to give out with the new curriculum? What have you sent home previously? Do parents use them? Why or why not?

26. Do you communicate with parents? What form does that contact take? (email; phone; in person; etc). What do you try to tell them? Are they very responsive? Why or why not?

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IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE:

27. Do your children sit through the entire worship service with their parents? Why or why not? If not, what is provided for them? What ages? For what portion of the service (whole service: just the sermon; etc.)?

NEW CURRICULUM:

28. What do you most like about your current curriculum? What would you most like to change? What an ideal curriculum look like for your situation?

29. When do you want to start the new curriculum?

30. Do you have any/many "load-bearer" teachers; that is, teachers willing to invest lots of time and energy into your current program or would be willing to do this with a new program?

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SUMMARY MINISTRY REFLECTIONS

31. What are some things to thank God for in your ministry setting? Who has it been most effective in reaching with the gospel? What are some things you would love to improve, with God's help?

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS, COMMENTS, & QUESTIONS: