

The Big Picture for kids: Jesus on their Level

****Game**** (finish song lyrics) -example of one used for elementary school to teach "I Worship God"

Introduce central team:

- Cherie Duffey
- Jennifer Barden
- Adam Johnson
- Sydney Olin
- Mandy Smith
- Katie Weidenhammer

One of the first things we did was change the name of our children's ministry to make it something the community would recognize and tie back into the church: **KidSpring**.

The next thing we did was come up with a vision: Jesus on their level.

It took us 9 years to decide our core values!

The two questions parents ask their kids are: 1) Did you have fun and 2) What did you learn?

-we wanted to create an atmosphere/environment where they could do both.

The Sunday Experience for KidSpring begins in the parking lot: the kids are greeted in the parking lot then checked in at our start stations. ****For our new families, we give them a vision piece & they get a green name tag rather than a white one and we follow up with a phone call.**

-Our advocates have one of the most confrontational service positions-they believe and understand our vision

-On the first timer cards there is a spot for allergies, special needs, etc...making sure safety is involved

-Mom and dad walk the child to the environment where they are welcomed by volunteers at the door

-In the nursery everything is labeled-the volunteers are able to ask any questions concerning the little ones at this time.

-In the Elementary area there are activity stations based on the theme or series we are in-they are greeted at the door-we like to change the activity stations out every 8 weeks

- In the nursery the toys are age appropriate

-In preschool they also have activity stations and bubble blowers

-After activity station time, the clean up song plays (which is different for each age group) and they get ready for small group-we like to build the relationships here-try to keep same small group leader with group each week.

-with the toddlers, during snack time, they are read a story

-in preschool and elementary school small group is not Boring-it's not a list of "this is what you do" but more of a time where "this is what you need to know". Small group is also a time for FUN-structured and fun

Small Group

1. Kid Connection: Intro to series and to each other
2. Bible Story: read and ask questions about it-Bible story goes along with large group video/production
3. Application Activity: fun game activity- application activity based on age-separate lessons for gender in 4/5th grade
4. Wrap Up: memory verse-taught for entire series-younger kids get motions with Bible verse
5. Prayer-scripted just for direction-trying to teach them how to pray-end in small group-we want the kids to be sitting down learning something-this way the parents can identify who the small group leader is and it keeps the kids calmer during check out

**if the kids know the Bible verse (memorized) by week 8 they get a prize

Large Group

- Right now we use Elevate curriculum from Texas
 - We have a Google site where we have all materials for our campuses to use
 - Kids are in front of a TV all week- our desire is to have live acting at all campuses- God's word is not BORING! It is ALIVE and we should make it something they want more of
1. Worship- we have people on stage leading the children in worship
 2. Game- fun with a purpose (elementary school)
 3. Live acting- for preschool and elementary school

Preschool gets everything in a skit-songs/motions/Bible story
Elementary is broken down. They have the counter that leads into worship- time to teach motions, a live game element, skit with live acting that reflects the Bible teaching (in middle of skit) this stops the acting and you hear the Bible story then the rest is acted out

The songs we chose are age appropriate and fun! Willow Creek is great for preschool; iTunes is great for elementary and preschool; younger age children need fewer words and more motions, older age kids can handle more words and fewer motions

We put up videos for training- this equips our volunteers!

Large group- creating worship/creating service for kids-taking videos and rewriting them to live scripts- right now Columbia is watching videos as is- but our goal is to get them to live acting soon

Q&A:

How do you deal with transition time?

We open check in only when service is over-making sure all kids are checked out before we move more in

How do you deal with behavior issues with more children and less volunteers?

We have set clear rules for our children's ministry-for elementary the rule is love God love others-speaking vision into the kids, tapping into their leadership-and if issues arise taking away some of their privileges. We will tell the parents and try and get to the heart of the matter.

How do you put kids in a group if they are not coming to the same service each week?

We can look at our data base to see who comes when-we also have the volunteer leader looking at it-it is important to keep up with your numbers in groups-when a child attends three times to the same service we can then assign them to a group

How do you do a base camp at a portable campus?

We are still trying to figure it out-in Greenville we are using our Spring Zone (special needs) room in between services and give them a drink and snack and then take them to serve- in Florence they take them out in the hallway

With live worship does that include a band?

No- no instruments-just some one up there to teach the motions and sing the song