Practical Children’s Ministry Tools

**Engage**: We want the kids to remember the truths we are teaching. We want them to be interacting and excited about what we are teaching.

* Themes: Help the kids visually make the connection. Create stage themes that change regularly. Keep them for at least 3 months but as long as the kids stay energized by it. As simple as boxes being wrapped as gifts and as extravagant as a Jungle seen to share the Adventure we are on as we follow Jesus.
* Main Point: One important phrase for them to repeat throughout the serve. The best way is a declaration where it's not only a fact but a statement for them to embrace.  (Repeat it and make it short)
* Characters: Puppets, People, Script or add lip. Best thing to do with an character is teach them, have them make the mistakes kids might make with the memory verse, or miscommunication kids might have with the subject that you could act out for them so they learn.
* Skits: present day skits or Bible story, Great way to get youth involved or kids in the Bible Story time.
* Object lesson: Magic Tricks or just an visual aids. Try to use everyday objects so when they see them they remember the lesson. Just like Jesus did. (adding machine, three ropes,
* Application: Always make a time for kids to live out or work out in their hearts what they learned.
* Games:
  + Unify : Games that promote togetherness. This can be done through large group games that help them interact in a way they might not have naturally or in small groups to help connect their interests.
    - Enjoy each other’s company,
    - learn to work together,
    - meet new people.
  + Make  It  Stick : A game to make your point understood and fun. A time to help them apply what you are talking about in a way they will not forget.
  + Let It Loose: Energetic game to involve everyone to get energy out and focus regained.
    - Start with it
    - Use it at a time they are very wiggly and not listening
    - End the lesson with it to leave them in an exciting way

**Engage**: Parents in leading their kids. We must encourage and help train the parents to lead their children spiritual at home.

* Find the best way that works for you and train parents
  + Family Events
  + Small groups
  + Handouts
  + Trainings

**Encounter**: John 17:3 Now this is eternal Life that you may know God. Our whole goal is that they will encounter the one true God and never leave Him. We want to make opportunities we want to pray and fast for breakthroughs. We want every second of our time with them to bring them into a deeper knowledge of God.

* There is not a junior Holy Spirit
* Our ceiling is their floor
* Lead them into worship
* Lead them into His presence and learn to hear from Him
* Have activities for them to learn to be in His presence
  + Journaling
  + Art
  + Imagination Activity

**Empower**: John 14:12 “You will do what Jesus did and even greater.” As Jesus’ disciples we are to go out into all the world and share the good news. Kids are never too young to be a disciple of Jesus. Let us train them now to go out and be His witness.

* They need a safe place to practice. They need encouragement and training
* Allow them to practice, pray for the sick, write encouraging words, learn to speak, serve, give

**Keep learning!**

Good children’s ministry resources:

<http://www.max7.org/en>

<http://www.relevantchildrensministry.com/>

<http://orangeblogs.org/orangeleaders/>

<http://www.whowillyouempower.com/>

http://kinderforum-bfp.de/