

What are we teaching and learning in bigKIDS?

The main things we aim to teach bigKIDS are:

WISDOM

I need to make the wise choice, so I will

- trust and follow Jesus
- spend time getting to know God
- do whatever God says
- discover God's unique plan for my life

FAITH

I can trust God no matter what, because

- He is my Creator
- He is my Father
- He is my Guide
- He is my Saviour

FRIENDSHIP

I should treat others the way I want to be treated, so I will

- show God's love to those around me
- care enough to put others before me
- respect whoever God puts over me
- be the right friend to those beside me

SERVICE

I have gifts and talents that God can use now, so I will

- use my skills and talents to serve His body
- try different ways of serving others and stretch myself
- learn that God can use me at the age I am

Mostly everything we do will lead back to one of these four things. These are things that will stand them in good stead as they grow older and become teens and adults.

Our prayer and hope as we teach the children is that they would grow up as Jesus did: And as Jesus grew up, he increased in wisdom and in favour with God and people. Luke 2:52

Bottom line

You are not a content provider, you are a contact provider. Your role is to be present with the children, make relationship with them and make space for them to meet with God. Our aim is to put children in the Way of Jesus, He'll do the rest.



bigKIDS safety and care

Sign in and sign out

Sign in will be from 9:45am in the entrance to the school by the gym. Children will be wearing a name tag when they come to your group - if they don't have a tag send them back to the team member on sign in today. Check the child in on your list and keep this list with you.

Parents must return security numbers to you when they collect their child. Another trusted adult may sign out the child if they have the security number.

Safety for you and the children

For our safety and security it is important that we have at least two team members with children at all times. You should never be in the situation of being the only adult in the room, in the gym or out at the park. Please watch out for each other and keep your eyes open as you are working in the different rooms or walking children to the playground.

Bathroom

There are bathrooms at both ends of the school. Children do not need to be accompanied to the bathroom but they do need to ask permission to go so that you know where they are.

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Good behaviour to reinforce

In bigKIDS we treat kids with respect by speaking and acting as a friend

In bigKIDS we treat our leaders with respect by obeying their instructions and listening to them

In bigKIDS we take part in activities

In bigKIDS we stay where we belong and do not leave without permission

Consequences of poor behaviour/choices

Occasionally we need to deal with naughty behaviour on a Sunday morning. This is the procedure that we will follow

- First we will give a warning and a reminder of the behaviour that is more appropriate
 - write the offense on the clip board next to the child's name so all other team members know where you are up to on the consequence ladder
- Second (for the same offense) they will be given a time out, in your room, apart from the other children and for as many minutes as the child is old, they will again be reminded of the appropriate behaviour we are expecting
 - put a check mark next to the offense on the clip board
- Third (same offense) bring the child to the team leader who will repeat the time out and discuss the behaviour again.
- Fourth (same offense) the team leader for the morning will contact the parents to come and take the child back with them to the adult meeting and we'll try again next week :)

NB. the team leader will talk to parents about consequences that their child had during the morning at sign out time

If a child exhibits different difficult behaviour than that which has been corrected already start the process over.

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bigKIDS building relationships

because children matter

You MATTER. they MATTER

M - MAKE EYE CONTACT, MAKE HEART CONTACT

Children want to know you are for real - they can spot a fake from 100 paces. Make eye contact with them and smile. Humour is a child's first language so find out what makes them laugh and then do it, say it and be it.

A - ASK QUESTIONS

Be a fascination ninja. You are a ninja with the skill of being fascinated with others. Everyone is a story that God is telling the world - find out their story. A good way to do this is to use the word FROM

F - Family

R - Recreation (what do you do for fun?)

O - Occupation (what are you good at?)

M - Motivation (what do you want to change in the world? What difference are you going to make)

T - TIME

Time is important and time is precious. You are giving children your time by serving in juniorKIDS - thank you! Being here is one thing but being present is another. You demonstrate worth to a child by taking time for them so in the business of juniorKIDS take moments with individuals

A kid has on average 306,600 awake minutes in a year and at most 4680 of those in juniorKIDS. Therefore the time we have them in juniorKIDS is just 1.5% of the year but this 1.5% is a very important part of their year.

Make each minute count, they are minutes that lay foundations of faith and connect children with their Heavenly Father and have lasting importance.

T - TRUST AND TEACH

I would like the word matter to have 3t in it

Let the children know that they can trust you. Let them learn from you by being a good example. Let them know you trust them by giving them jobs to do along side you to help you and others in your small group.

E - ENCOURAGE

You get to launch or squash a child with every encounter, there is nothing in between. Which one are you going to do? Think, how can I encourage this child? Keep it real and find a way to encourage each individual. Everyone is created by the Creator with a spark in them that is waiting to come alive in Him, find it and fan it and let them grow in Him.

R - RELAX

You don't have to do the hard work, Jesus is doing that and has already done that. Your role is to respond to the invitation from God for life in Him and your part is to pass that invitation on to the individual child in front of you. He loves them way more than you do. He is always with them. 100% compared to our less than 1.5%. Ask Him to show you what is special about each child. Ask Him to show you what He likes about the child in front of you. Ask Him to give you His heart for them.

And remember...

4/14 years old is the prime age to be reached for the gospel and make a decision to follow Jesus - 85% of people give their lives during this age. This is a significant time in the lives of the children. Let them come to Jesus - make way for them, use any way you can to draw them into the circle of Jesus' amazing love for them. Don't hinder them. You have the potential to make a difference in their lives that will last forever.

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Providing a quiet moment in the morning where children can listen to Jesus is something we try to do regularly as this helps them develop a habit of doing this at other times. When they are listening it sometimes helps to ask a question of Jesus, e.g. what do you want to tell me today?

The children are good at this, never dismiss anything they say they heard from God as being silly because God speaks in all kinds of ways. Instead ask further questions to clarify like - Why do you think He said that to you? Does that mean something special to you? Does anyone else have an idea about what that might mean?

GOD SPEAKS TO THOSE WHO WILL LISTEN. GOD CAN SPEAK IN ANY WAY HE CHOOSES. HE WILL USE BOTH THE UNIQUE AND THE COMMON IN ORDER TO DECLARE HIS LOVE FOR US. HE IS ALWAYS SPEAKING AND THOSE WHO HAVE "EARS TO HEAR" WILL HEAR WHAT HE IS SAYING.

God's primary language is not words. God is not human; He is Spirit. God has His own 'language' and He chooses to communicate with us (because He loves us) in lots of different ways.

He might use our senses

Sight - He might use dreams or visions or colours

Hearing - He might use an audible voice or speak using our imaginations

Touch - He might give a feeling that means something to someone else

He might use the bible, reminding us of a verse or a phrase

He might give an impression, just something that you feel or kind of just know or sense

He might speak through creation

Or He might speak in a billion other ways, don't limit Him to one way and dismiss anything too quickly.

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"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in or the car I drove but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."

Forest E. Witcraft

"Every child you encounter is a divine appointment."

Wess Stafford, President, Compassion International

"If I could relive my life, I would devote my entire ministry to reaching children for God!"

Dwight L. Moody

"A person's a person, no matter how small."

Dr. Seuss

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

King Solomon

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Jesus

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