



juniorKIDS

Your role is important

What are we teaching and learning in juniorKIDS?

The three main things we aim to teach the juniorKIDS are:

God loves you

God made you

Jesus wants to be your friend forever

Mostly everything we do will lead back to one of these three things. If they understand this at an early age then they will grow up knowing this is true and imagine what kind of a difference that will make as they grow older and become teens and adults.

Children at this age learn through play

Playtime is 'work' for a child. Children learn so much through play. We will have activities each morning that can help you guide the children to 'play with a purpose'. The activities will seem like play to the children but your comments and interaction with them will guide them to learn as they play. Children this age need to be taught how to play together. Supervise the children at all times so that arguments are addressed before they begin.

Children at this age learn through doing

juniorKIDS like hands on activities and lots of action. We will try to include as much action as possible into the bible stories and activities that are planned for each morning. With the younger ones you do not need to gather all the children to do an activity together as that will be overwhelming for you and for them. A few at a time is better.

Children at this age learn through the use of their 5 senses

Sensory experiences will help the children access what you are teaching them. Think about providing different ways for the children to explore what they are learning.

Children at this age learn through repetition

A child will often say, "Read it again", "Sing it again" Repetition is a great way for them to learn. Using the same songs or rhymes or repeating our key phrase over and over will help stick the truth into these young hearts and minds.

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.



juniorKIDS 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 in Benjamin&Joseph should be accompanied to the bathroom, it might be a good idea to do this after story and singing so they all go to the bathroom together. There is a bench seat they can wait on in there. Sign in sheets will tell you who is potty training.

Children in Asher& Zebulun 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 juniorKIDS I will be a friend by listening and looking when someone is talking

In juniorKIDS I will be a friend by using friendly hands and friendly words

In juniorKIDS I will share and wait my turn with a smile

In juniorKIDS I will stay where I belong

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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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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The children will copy you, it's how they learn. Be aware of the fact that you are modeling to the children all the time. One place this is obvious is in our sung worship time. You lead, whether up front or in the crowd so here's what you need to know.

Worship is not about me

So there is no pressure to perform and no glory from doing so, it is not about you

Worship is not about you

Yes, you are modeling worship but there is no need to show off and no need to impress and it's okay to look foolish

Worship is all about Jesus

Worship is our gift to Jesus and it points other people to Him. Our aim is to make Him look good

Worship is not for me

You don't have to like the song and you don't have to be thanked or appreciated for doing it because it isn't for you

Worship is not for you

You don't have to be perfect for anyone else watching, it's okay to mess up the actions or the words because God listens to the heart not the notes. Just point them back to Jesus.

Worship is all for Jesus

He loves it when His children of any age worship Him and you are helping the children to meet with Him and bring Him their gift of worship

God says...

"I made you for myself that you may proclaim my praise!" Isaiah 43:21

"From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise (this was God's idea) because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger." Psalm 8:2

Our worship is powerful, the children's worship is powerful.

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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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