

How to Plan a Children's Event

1. Six months out form a prayer team to begin praying for your special event. Encourage the congregation to pray. Visit classrooms on several Sundays to encourage adults, youth, and children to begin praying for this event. Get commitments from people to continue praying until the event is over. At least monthly, provide those praying with a list of prayer requests concerning this event. The more you keep it before them, the more likely they will pray.
2. Five months out determine the evangelistic event to conduct. Make it relevant to the community. Consider current trends and fads. Consider the weather. Consider potential scheduling conflicts. Determine the target age group. Ask: What can we do to attract the most lost and un-churched children in our area?
3. Four months out secure a place to conduct the event.
4. Three months out recruit adults to assist. Determine a teacher/student ratio and recruit appropriate number of teachers based on the estimated number of children attending. Consider recruiting parents for adult helpers.
5. Two months out equip all adults to witness to children. Use the *Sharing God's Special Plan for Children* and/or *Show & Tell* materials for the training. Both of these are produced by the North American Mission Board and can be viewed and ordered at www.namb.net/children.
6. Six weeks out begin promotion and advertising campaign. Promote to children in church. Use flyers and posters. Write letters to parents. Use a bulletin board for promotion. Encourage children to invite their un-churched friends. Give a special gift to all children attending (this will motivate children to come and bring a friend). Also promote in neighborhoods around the church. Visit homes. Write letters. Offer rides to children attending. Remember, the goal is to have lost children present at the event.
7. Remember to keep the event moving. Do not allow "dead" time. If you do you will quickly lose control.
8. Close the event by presenting the gospel. An adult should do this with the whole group.
9. After the presentation, ask for children who would like to talk about accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior of their lives to come forward. Do not have the children pray a prayer of commitment as a group. Do this one-on-one only.
10. When the children come forward, lead them to another area. The adults who have been trained to share the gospel with children should go with you. Have plenty of chairs for the children to sit down. Explain to them that adults are going to be talking with them one-on-one and everyone should sit quietly until an adult can talk with them. Be sure that there is at least one adult to sit with the children who are not currently being counseled.
11. Pair up one child with one adult to discuss the decision the child wishes to make. Do not assume that all children came forward for salvation. Always first ask, "Why did you come forward today?" and/or "What did you come forward to talk about today?"
12. Through questions determine the spiritual condition of the child (lost, save, unsure, no assurance, or not ready to make a decision) and lead that child to some decision. Pray with the child.