

Welcome to our 5 minute Leadership vlog. We're currently looking at ministry to children; leadership of the children's ministry and this is part 3 of the series.

**We're going to look now at a few critical components to get your children's ministry on track.**

### **1. The person you pick to lead your kids ministry does not need to be good with kids.**

They don't need to be an animated speaker, or even need to be able to relate well with kids. That person needs a leadership gift: to be able to play people into space and to be able to raise a team up that are good with kids. I've seen many children's ministries around the world with people who are very awkward with children, but they have an incredible leadership gift and it elevates the children's ministry.

In our church, at our original site, 9 of the last 10 children's church leaders at that particular site have either lead churches or went on to lead churches. That's the calibre of leaders you need to entrust your children's ministry to. Without that you're likely to stumble around.

The big mistake people make is picking entertainers; extraverted people that the kids really love. Those guys are key for children's ministry but not necessarily to lead it.

### **2. Have a specialist philosophy**

If you have the philosophy amongst your children's ministry team that everybody does everything, everyone chips in and is a big happy family doing children's ministry - that children's ministry is unlikely to grow very big. If you have a specialist philosophy; in other words you develop specialist welcomers - people who are good with adults and interacting with parents; specialist sound and lighting guys, specialist dancers and muso's, specialist storytellers and hosts of meetings; specialists small group leaders (now those guys need to be good with kids, everybody else that I've mentioned can actually be quite awkward with kids). Those small group leaders are the ones who really need to be able to handle kids. Specialists in security, transport, logistics, administration, in counselling and administration behind the scenes midweek. If you have the philosophy to get people in to specialise in a particular function, you are making it possible to really grow your ministry. This leads us onto to number 3:

### **3. Slot your volunteers into an area of their greatest joy**

To get an introvert on the door because they were rostered to do it, almost ensures he is not going to last with you very long. To get someone who really loves expressing themselves in worship and song packing boxes, will not see them lasting long. When you get somebody who is in their sphere of expertise and their sphere of love and it coincides with a need in children's ministry - you've hit the jackpot!

#### **4. Pay attention to parents**

It is one thing getting your children's ministry really hopping, but it is another thing to get the parents to bring the kids there. How do you engage parents? Firstly, parents are concerned about different things concerning their children. They're concerned about safety - physically, in terms of spiritual doctrine and that their kids are happy. They want to know that you take this ministry seriously and invest in it. Welcoming them when they come, getting them to sign in, sending their kids back with newsletters and things that they've done is important to keep the parents involved.

It is not right to contact children during the week - ethically there are problems with that. Contacting parents however saying "we didn't see Johnny this week, how is he doing" is a way to keep parents invested.