

# CHILDREN'S CHURCH

First, you need workers and interpreters that love children and that are happy and excited. The field side coordinator will be the best judge of which interpreter will work best. The rest can be left to your imagination.

## **Following are a few suggestions.**

Plan to have 8 to 10 sessions daily.

Try to have 3 to 4 workers in Children's Church.

Use puppets to sing with children and help tell the story of Jesus.

Use a flannel board to help with telling Bible stories to the children.

Take a tape player (with batteries) and tapes translated into Spanish to sing and teach the children songs.

Use bubbles between children's service to lead children back to parent or out of and to play in the compound. In really congested areas, one of the interpreters could use a rope and play " Follow the leader" the children to get them back to their parents.

Occasionally, parents do come with children for the service.

Use a beach ball to play games with children either before or after story time. Beach balls work well; they take up little space and can be inflated once you need them.

Try to limit ages to at least 4 years of age, toddlers and infants may not benefit from service. Sometimes parents get upset because they cannot take infants in and receive a "goody pack" for attending children's church. The interpreter will need to explain that Children's Church is for ages 4 or older. About 30-40 children in each session is a good number. You can have children in children's church while parents are in line waiting to be seen in eye clinic, pharmacy, or dental or in church services.

"Goody bags" are prepared in zip lock bags, packed and inventoried to be shipped. Items like combs, sunglasses, small bars of soap, toothbrushes, suckers, and hard candy are good items to go in the bags. If you have had extra supplies donated you might take these items and leave them for the school, orphanages, or wherever the field sided coordinator sees a need. Kids really love tennis balls. Used or new tennis balls can be gathered from tennis clubs in your area.

Stickers are neat to have. Look for ones that say "Jesus Loves Me" in Spanish. Vacation Bible school activities are very appealing.

Let them make things, sing, and share Jesus. You will be blessed.

Submitted by Audrey Long