

# Tips for Working With Kids

- Never allow kids to do or touch anything that could hurt them.
- Never give kids rides (for insurance reasons).
- Never work one-on-one with kids without another adult around and always leave the door open, unless there is glass in the door.
- Touch kids only in appropriate ways—shake hands, do a high five, pat the back or hug the shoulders. (Never touch areas normally covered by a bathing suit.)
- Treat children with respect; demand that they treat you and others with respect.
- Never tease children—even in fun; they believe what you say.
- Treat all children the same; don't have favorites.
- Call kids by their names; look in their eyes when they speak to you, and when you speak to them.
- Speak clearly without slang or swear words.
- Always speak well of God and the church.
- Make God a partner in ministry; pray for your ministry and the children you serve.
- Show kids that friendship with God and loyalty to His way of living is "cool," because it helps keep you headed in the right direction.
- Never miss a chance to tell kids what God has done for you.



ATTENTION ALL TEENS!

# Thank you!

**Thank you for volunteering to work with kids.**  
You and other committed young people play an essential role in this rapidly expanding ministry. You can influence a child to Say "YES" to Jesus!





Throughout history, the church has thrived on the energy of young people who have a passion for God. **Joseph, David, Esther and Daniel** began their ministries while they were still youth. **James and Ellen White** were teenagers when God called them to service. **Anna Knight** in her twenties went alone to start Adventist missions in India. All these people continued to grow in their faith as they served God into old age, but we must never forget that God chose to use them while they were still young.

You are not just the church of tomorrow; you are the church today. We want to give you the tools and encouragement you need as you respond to God's call.



### WHAT IS CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES?

**Some people think children's ministries is babysitting.**

This is not true! Kids are capable of a commitment to follow Jesus that can last a lifetime. Sure, it's important to share the gospel with adults whose lives are being destroyed by sin, but it's just as vital to share Jesus with children. In order for an adult to be saved, he or she must become humble like a child. Obviously, children are already children; they don't need open heart surgery like adults do. Their hearts are already wide open. Why wait until they close?

### WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT MINISTERING TO CHILDREN?

**Children are bubbling over with eagerness and excitement, which can be a lot of fun.** But they also have a serious side that can surprise you. They have honest questions and they expect honest answers. When they find the truth, they accept it without reservation and without excuses. They may get distracted more easily than adults, but a child's moral compass doesn't waver.

Teaching is a learning opportunity for everyone involved.

- Of course the children learn; after all, that's the point.
- You can learn from adults who have experience in children's ministries, they can learn from you, and you can all learn from the children.
- Don't be afraid to ask for feedback, and try not to be offended when you get feedback you didn't ask for.
- Be tactful when you give feedback to an adult. There's nothing quite as embarrassing as being told off by someone who has less experience.
- There are many books and seminars that deal specifically with ministering to children. Ask your church leaders to get some for you.

### WHY DO TEENS EXCEL IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES?

**Children are naturally drawn to teenagers.** You may not realize it, but they watch you carefully, imitating the things you do. Children love it when an adult gives them attention, but when a teenager takes time for them, they feel really special. After all, parents and grandparents are supposed to care about kids—it's their job. But teens who answer God's call to work with children are a blessing straight from heaven. You can impact children in ways adults can only dream of.



### WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS?

**You have energy, enthusiasm, and new ideas.** (It's no wonder kids like you.) As a teenager, you learn fast and bounce back quickly when things don't go according to plan. You're flexible and forgive easily. You know how to work with adults, but you haven't forgotten what it's like to be a child.

### WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

**That depends on how much you put into your ministry.** More effort brings more results and more satisfaction. Through you, children will see the love of God. When you share your faith, you will grow yourself. By blessing others, you will be blessed in return. As they say, "The pay isn't great, but the benefits are out of this world."

The church has many resources to help you.

- Children's Ministries Ideas and Techniques That Work (AdventSource #021992) - A basic book explaining children, how they learn, and how to minister to them.
- Bible Learning Activities for Primary Sabbath School (AdventSource #021120) - Lots of active learning ideas for kids ages 6-9.
- Hands-On Bible (Group 0-8423-8760-9) - Explodes with hands-on activities, fun facts, biographies, and more.
- [childmin.com](http://childmin.com) is packed with information about Children's Ministries.
- [adventsource.org](http://adventsource.org) Where you can view and purchase ministry resources.