Sharing Space - Together We Can Make A Difference

Introduction

Welcome to the exciting experience of working with preschoolers. The preschool years are a time of laying foundation that make a difference for life. Thank you for your commitment to providing the best for preschoolers each time you teach.

When programs and ministries, such as Sunday School, Discipleship, Missions, Music, Weekday Early Education, develop a spirit of cooperation, sharing space benefits preschoolers each time they are at church. Just as preschoolers are taught to share, adults can role model sharing as they share space with other programs and ministries of the church.

Preschool Ministry of the Church

Ministry to preschoolers and their families is one of the premier opportunities for a church to invest in the future. When a church values the importance of preschool ministry, it expresses to families, "*you are important to us*". Appropriate learning center teaching environments, Christian caring teachers, age appropriate curriculum, and good planning express to unchurched and non-Christian families, "*we love you; come on in; we have prepared the best for your child*".

Through an exemplary preschool ministry where all ministries and programs share space effectively, families develop positive relationships with caring Christians. Through these relationships, ministry and outreach can take place.

The Basics of Sharing Space

Preschool rooms are designed and designated for preschool children. In each room, age appropriate equipment such as low shelves, tables, chairs, CD player, dramatic play furniture, wooden unit blocks (70 per child in the block center) for older preschoolers, blockbusters for younger preschoolers, basic art supplies remain in the room for each ministry or program to use. Materials specific to a session or unit are brought in to use during a teaching session and returned to the resource room when the session ends. Thus, each ministry or program has the optimum opportunity to provide the best learning environment for preschool children each time the room is used.

Bible Verses:

- We Work together. 1 Corinthians 3:9
- Help one another. Galatians 5:13
- Do those things that are pleasing to God. 1 John 3:22
- Do what is right. 2 Corinthians 13:7

Administration and Guidelines for Successfully Sharing Space

Each room is designed for the age group who uses the room. Since preschool learning takes place in a learning center environment, each room is arranged to facilitate this type of learning experience.

For a successful experience, consider the following:

- The room belongs to the preschoolers who use the room
- The person responsible for preschool ministry in the church is responsible for establishing and communicating guidelines for sharing space
- Each year a meeting is scheduled for everyone who uses the room to decide on the room arrangement
- All teachers pray for each other and each ministry, thus keeping preschoolers at the heart of ministry
- All teachers using a room agree on the equipment in the room and it's arrangement. All additional teaching supplies/materials brought in for a session/unit are removed at the end of each session
- A room arrangement diagram is displayed in each room to ensure that the room is left in the agreed upon arrangement
- Basic art supplies are on the shelf in the art center for every ministry to use. Examples would be paper, crayons, scissors, glue and markers
- Locks are never used
- A method of communication is established among teachers sharing a room, such as a designated place to leave notes, share phone numbers and prayer requests
- Each teacher leaves the room clean and ready for the next ministry to use, "*just as if I had never been there*".