

Keeping...



In Step with the Master Teacher

Issue 4:2

Help or hindrance

When we are working with pre-schoolers, it is important that we enlist the help of others. Sometimes helpers can be a hindrance rather than a help. What can we do to ensure that our helpers will be an asset to our group?



Practical Tip

Here are some training tips for those who help you:

1. Arrive early enough to help set up for the group.
2. If there is more than one helper, space yourselves around the room to help when and where you are needed. Don't stand and talk to each other in the back of the room.
3. During the Bible story sit behind the children and watch them. Show interest in the story but don't get so involved that you're not aware of problems developing.
4. Don't call across the room to children who are misbehaving during the story. Go to them and deal with the problem as quietly as possible. Remember that they are pre-schoolers who are bound to make some noise and movement (the leader should plan for their involvement in the story).
5. Gently place your hand on the shoulder of a misbehaving child and smile at her. Or, whisper a few positive words to encourage her to focus on the story or join in the activity.
6. If a child is annoying the children next to him, quietly move him to another seat or ask him to stand while you move his chair back a little from the circle. After a few minutes, move his chair back to the original place and encourage him to do better.
7. When a child needs help, do only what you need to do to keep him from being frustrated.
8. Remember that young children forget easily. Your positive, gentle, and persistent disciplining is training them how to function well in a group, not punishing them for inappropriate behaviour or because they annoy you. Our goal is to help these children come to know, love, and obey God.

BCM UK's vision is for more and more children and young people to come to know, love and obey God.

To learn more, we recommend the ISMT training session:

Working with Pre-schoolers

...He said to them, "Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them.

*Mark 10:14
(International Children's Bible)*



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