

6 Things a New Children's Pastor Should Do

by Mimi Bullock

- 1. Meet with current teachers and volunteers individually and ask questions.** Talk about what they have enjoyed and what they would like to see changed. Ask for input on ideas you have. Strengthening relationships with volunteers can only help you serve kids and families better.
- 2. Introduce yourself to parents.** Provide them with information on the services you will offer. Listen to them if they have concerns and ask them to tell you about their child. (Parents love talking about their children.) Take notes if you need to and work hard on remembering names.
- 3. Spend some time observing the current children's ministry—but only observe.** What is missing? What should be changed? What can improve? Take note of curriculum and material needs too.
- 4. Do a walkthrough of the facility.** What needs do you see? If you don't absolutely love it, what can you change? At the very least the kids' church should be clean and tidy. Pay attention to security issues too.
- 5. Talk to the senior pastor about funding for children's church upgrades.** You should know exactly what your funding options are. Do you need to plan fundraisers? Are you assigned a budget? What can you spend each month or quarter? Don't allow the excitement of your new position (and it sure is exciting) lead you to skip these important questions.
- 6. Talk to some of the kids.** Meet the kids! (This is the most fun part of the checklist.) Ask them to tell you what their favorite snacks are, their favorite memory in kids' church. Again, do make an effort to remember names.

I know you want to jump right in there and serve but do take your time. Gathering the above details before your official kick-off will keep the ball rolling!

INTERNET RESOURCES

[Children's Ministry Deals - Children's Ministry...](#)

www.childrens-ministry-deals.com

[Ministry to Children](#)

MINISTRY-TO-CHILDREN <donotreply@wordpress.com>;

[DLTK's Crafts for Kids](#)

www.dltk-kids.com

OTHER RESOURCES

Mentors

Other churches

kidzarumc.com

Annual conference

christianbook.com

Thrift stores

Yard sales

THE ROLE OF THE CHILDREN'S PASTOR

Jim Wideman

3. God has set ministry gifts in the church for a specific purpose

A. Let's look at Ephesians 4:11&12 "It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, **to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up**"

B. All of us who are in ministry, minister out of a particular office or ministry gift (Ephesians 4:11)

1. Although there are different ministry gifts they are all for the same purpose

(Ephesians 4:12)

2. That purpose demands leadership

3. Notice that in verse 12 there are no age limits on God's people

4. The title children's pastor is not found in the Bible

A. Most of us who minister to children are under the office of the Pastor or Shepherd

B. If you are a children's minister you have been called to serve a shepherd and you must have a shepherd's or pastor's heart in able to be effective!

C. One of the best descriptions of what a shepherd does is found in 1 Peter 5:2&3 "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers --not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

•We see five main duties or descriptions of a shepherd in these verses:

1. Feeder
2. Care giver or tender
3. Overseer
4. Willing and eager to serve
5. Example

5. Let's take a look at each one of these and how they relate to children's ministry

A. We have been called to feed the flock (Kids need the Word!)

1. What are the needs?
2. My pastor talked about containers the other weekend
3. We not only have an impact on children but parents and other adults
4. Kids need the word on their level (*Remember if they can't remember it they can't live it*)
5. Teach in ways that get the best results (**Pupil's Ability to Retain Information*)

6. Use a variety of methods (Don't get in a rut) Jesus used a variety of methods:

1. Questions
2. Discussion
3. Lecture or Preaching
4. Stories
5. Visuals or Teaching Aids;
 - a. Illustrations
 - b. Object lessons
 - c. Demonstrations

B. We have been called to care for the flock

1. The first rule of care giving is to have a relationship with the flock
 - a. We must know our sheep and allow our sheep to know us

John 10:14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me-"
 1. Spending time (class, activities, talking to them, praying with them, being available for them)
 2. Love them enough to listen to them
 - b. People don't care what you know until they know that you care

2. Meet all their needs

- a. Spiritual
- b. Social
- c. Emotional
- d. Physical

3. Pastoral care must include follow up

- a. Why should I give you any more children if you cannot keep up with the ones you already have?
- b. Tracking is a must!

C. **We have been called to oversee**

1. You must be a leader as well as a doer

- a. Learn to work with adults
- b. Know how to cast vision

“I don’t pastor the church I have, I pastor the church I want to have.”

2. Must learn what, when and to whom to delegate

- a. Develop a strong organization structure
- b. Evaluate- You cannot spend all your time teaching!

3. You need to manage the ministry and those assisting you

- a. Make a list of every place you could use a worker
- b. Make job descriptions, policies and procedures before you recruit volunteers
- c. Train workers to do what you want
- d. Continue to coach, equip and duplicate

E. We must be eager and willing to serve

1. Jesus said in Matthew 20:28 that He did not come to be served, but to serve.

2. Mark 9:35 And hH sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.

Mark 10:44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

3. Serving is more than sacrifice, it's total commitment

John 10:11-13 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

a. We must get rid of the "what about me?" spirit!

b. It's all about serving others

4. A servant is a hard worker, not a clock-watcher

5. Eager and willing also reflects our attitude and motives

a. There is a difference in an executive and a servant

b. There is a difference between a team player and an individual

F. A shepherd is an example

1. We should be an example of Christ Jesus

2. We should be an example of our Pastor

3. We should be an example of those in leadership above us

4. We should be an example in how we live and do business

5. We should be an example in family matters and relationships

6. We should be an example of how we carry ourselves (work ethic)

7. We should be an example in ministry

6. What causes us to be able to do these things effectively is our heart

A. The Bible has a lot to say about our heart (762 verses)

1. Proverbs 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

2. Luke 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

3. Jeremiah 3:15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

a. We know God's heart by knowing His Word

b. We must seek God's heart

B. David was a shepherd who God said "was a man after mine own heart"

1. David knew God and sought His direction

2. He understood authority

3. He was faithful (Handled small task well)

4. He recognized and seized Godly opportunity

5. He was willing to take a risk

6. David was a fighter (He didn't give up)

7. He knew how to encourage himself in God

8. David knew how to repent

7. God wants you to be a leader!

- A. He wants you to improve your skills, your abilities and your methods but don't ever love children's ministry more than your children
- B. God wants you to be a shepherd to the flock He's given you
- C. To be a shepherd you don't need a degree, a title, or a position, but you must have a shepherd's heart
- D. You can't separate children from family ministry no matter your title
 - 1. Parents need skills
 - 2. Parents are the most important key to disciple their children
 - 3. You can't just concentrate on kid's ministry you must prepare them for student ministry
 - 4. Become a champion of working together with all next generation ministries

8. It's a difficult responsibility, but God equips and empowers those He calls

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Building Strong Leaders