

**Acts 29 South – Central Regional
Pre-School & Children’s**



PRESCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S BREAKOUT: OPPORTUNITY, NOT OBLIGATION

INTRODUCTIONS, VISION & PHILOSOPHY

Amanda Shelton, Children's & Preschool Minister
Providence Church
amanda@insideprovidence.com

Charissa Brimage, Director of Preschool Ministries
The Village Church
cbrimage@thevillagechurch.net

Anne Lincoln Holibaugh, Director of Children's Ministries
The Village Church
aholibaugh@thevillagechurch.net

OPPORTUNITY TO DO THE RIGHT THINGS FIRST: THE VALUE OF VISION

- **Craft a clear vision.** Take the time to really think and pray through this. It may take a while, and that is okay. Your vision, or even just the seeds of it, will serve as your anchor. It will keep you grounded when things are difficult and when things are going well. It will help narrow and clarify your focus.
- **Start to develop your philosophy of ministry.** How are you going to do things and why? What do you value in ministry? What you value will drive how you allocate resources and where you invest your time and energy. Does your vision and philosophy stand in alignment with the church as a whole? Who is your customer?
- **Define specific goals.** For example, our primary goals are biblical teaching, exciting activities, well trained/engaging volunteers. Our former goals were safety, biblical teaching and enough volunteers

OPPORTUNITY FOR ORDER (NOT CHAOS): A LOOK AT LOGISTICS

Security and Safety: one thing that you can not compromise

- Background checks for all volunteers
- Security system for checking in and checking out.
- Is there anything about your space that makes security an issue? **Address specifically that security is a bigger issue when you are mobile and needs to be thought through very carefully. Also talk through some potential security issues we have faced: multiple entry/exit point, divorced parents with custody issues, etc.**

Space: think about how you will allocate the space you're given

- How will you divide age groups?
- What do you physically need in your room(s) to maintain a safe environment?

- What do you physically need in your room(s) to create and maintain a fun and engaging environment?
- What are the implications of being mobile and having to set up and tear down from week to week?

Time: think about how you will structure the time you're given

- Resist the temptation to simply entertain or occupy them
- How to be fun and creative when you don't have a lot of money.
Encourage them that not having much money is not a problem. We don't have flashy ministries. Our parents understand that content is more important than toys.

OPPORTUNITY TO SOW SEEDS ON PURPOSE: LEADERSHIP AND CURRICULUM

- identify a point person with contagious passion
- pick the right people to do the right jobs
- Work yourself out of a job as quickly as possible
- Decide what you want the kids to learn, and then teach that every week
- Make it as easy on your teachers as possible

OPPORTUNITY TO SET THE TONE: INVESTING IN VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers: think about who you need and what you will be asking of them

- Get awesome people on your team. Beg God for them.
- Give them clear expectations about when they will serve and what they will be doing
- You need to invest in your team. You need to encourage them often and have a plan to help them spiritually. How often are they able to attend service?
- Celebrate victories with your team. Share great feedback from parents with teachers, volunteers, other parents. You need to be a cheerleader for your ministry. Remind them of the vision.

WORDS OF WARNING AND ENCOURAGEMENT

- Parents. You earn and maintain credibility with them when their children are safe and well cared for...spiritual care as well as physical care.
- Maintain your own spiritual health. It's likely that you will not be attending service consistently. You need a plan for how you will stay near the Lord and invested in community. You need a plan to avoid burnout.
- Be aware that your own sin – fear of man and need for people's approval – will be a factor in ministry
- Have realistic expectations. It is not going to be perfect right away. It is important to have a big vision but just as important to understand that each weekend is a step toward that.
- Slow turn of the boat. Give yourself room and time to grow and figure things out along the way. Don't be afraid to fail.
- Truly seek the Lord in all things. Don't lean on your own ability and logic.