



THE ENCOURAGER

Help for Sunday School Teachers— Dedicated to those who take the Word of Life to Children Everywhere

THE TEACHERS TOOLBOX

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HEART WORK



Debbie's first graders were discussing a picture of a family. In the picture, one little boy had different hair colour than the other family members. One child suggested that perhaps it meant that he was adopted!

A little girl said, "I know all about adoptions because I was adopted." "What does it mean to be adopted?" Asked another child. "It means," said the girl, "that you grew in your mommy's heart instead of her tummy!"

The foundation of all good instruction is

PLANNING

When you plan you prepare yourself by these:

- ° Define your **objective**
- ° Find, explore or review the **bible story** or principle that teaches your objective
- ° Describe how you will present the **Gospel** in your lesson
- ° **Chunk your time** into appropriate time lengths, so that you will not exceed your students' attention span

PRESENTING

During the Teaching of the Lesson you will work through the Phases of Presenting.

- ° **The Opening Act**—this is when you welcome the students, present the behavioral expectations and clearly introduce your objective.
- ° **The Main Event**—at this time you present your story using as many visual aids as possible. It is highly recommended that your story be centered on the Bible. The best stories are Bible Stories.

° **Practice**—Next the students will practice or review the objective. Remember to use different types of practice and plans while varying the complexity of the activity. The key to successful practice activities depends on giving excellent directions.

EVALUATING

This is the final part of the lesson.

- ° **Evaluation**—during this time, the students will reveal how they relate to the objective. Remember to plan the way you will evaluate to accommodate your group's language proficiency
- ° **Administration**—this is when you clean up, gather bibles, pass out materials and get resettled. Try to give the students as much responsibility as you can in this area
- ° **Closing**—Once all the administration is complete, you will focus the students on yourself and tell them the objective one more time. The objective is the last thing they should be reminded of before they leave. It is a good idea to formally excuse the students to maintain the order of the class and build relationships using meaningful dialogue.

MANAGEMENT AND MOTIVATION

The glue that holds your instruction together is class management. It is important to remember the following in order to foster a well managed environment:

- Your Goal**—the goal of management is to provide a safe, loving environment in which there are limits
- Your Motivation**—the best motivation is a genuine care and concern for the children. Remember it is even more important that the children be assured of your care for them than whether they actually like you
- Your Method**—Provide clear and consistent expectations, and respond to student expectations immediately

FINAL WORDS

You can be well-equipped to be an excellent Teacher!

Practice good teaching principles. Your students will learn—and benefit—for a lifetime—and eternity. *The above has been adapted from Michelle Fanfarillo's Booklet called The Teachers Toolbox. If you would like more information about methods or the full text of her booklet you may contact her at shelshel@cox.net*

