

KidMin OFFLINE- Pastoral Care

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Psalm 23

FREE DOWNLOADABLE EBOOK- 5 Elements at the Heart of Every Children's Ministry <https://childrensministryleader.com/newsletter/>

FOUNDATIONS FOR PASTORAL CARE

<https://thirtyoneeight.org/together-magazine/a-new-way-to-care-changing-models-of-pastoral-care/>

Pastoral care may involve:

1. Sustaining others through prolonged difficulty or immediate need.
2. Enabling a persons journey of healing and wholeness.
3. Supporting someone through the process of reconciliation with God, self and others.
4. Offering guidance about resources.
5. Bringing different perspectives.

GREG BAIRD- childrensministryleader.com:

1. Children's Ministry serves the most spiritually impressionable group in the church.
2. Children's Ministry serves the most spiritually influential group in the church (in case you're wondering, that would be *parents*).
3. Children's Ministry can dramatically impact the health and growth of your church if you invest in it properly.

In fact, I tell pastors that "you can't have a healthy church if you don't have a healthy ministry to children", and I believe that with all of my heart. So, do you know what a healthy children's ministry looks like? Do you understand how Children's Ministry can impact the rest of the church? Do you see the growth potential for the entire church when Children's Ministry is invested in properly?

Simple things like investing in leadership development with the children's ministry team, providing an adequate budget (chances are your Children's Ministry budget is no where near in proportion to other departments), and giving them an equal spot at the leadership table with other department heads will go a long way toward tapping into the growth potential provided by Children's & Family Ministry.

Partnering with Parents- 5 Elements Ebook:

Parents, from a biblical perspective, are designed to be the primary influence in a child's spiritual formation. They may have a positive or negative influence on their children, but either way, they affect their children more than anyone else.

Most of what we do through kidmin may be irrelevant in the spiritual life of the child if we are not intentionally partnering with parents.

What does this mean? Regardless of what model you may gravitate toward —be it traditional classrooms or a group format—children's ministry is family ministry and family ministry is children's ministry.

We can partner with parents in any model we choose to embrace. Within each individual church, our partnership will naturally vary with the environment, culture, leadership, and needs of the particular families we serve.

The important thing is that partnering with parents is an essential part of the definition of children's ministry, and our work must begin and end with this partnership. Without it, we are unlikely to have a lasting influence on the spiritual formation of children.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION FOR PASTORAL CARE:

1. Create a check in system with information available to keep you connected- we use Planning Center
2. Use a curriculum that ministers to the kids on every level spiritually.- We use High Voltage Curriculum
3. Provide resources for families: Prayer guides, Bibles, Books, Private FB or What's App group
4. Stay visible to the kids- even if you are not teaching, connect with your kids each week- School lunches, Chapel services, Soccer Games, Sports events
5. Make your connections personal- take time to get to know your kids, have dinner or coffee with families/parents
6. Provide relief/respice for families

RELIEF/RESPITE IDEAS:

1. Parents Night Out
2. Themed Family Nights
3. Park playdates for Toddlers during the school year
4. Family picnics in the park
5. Water day for kids
6. VBS/ Day Camp during the Summer

CELEBRATE HOLIDAYS WITH SPECIAL EVENTS

1. Easter- Google search: Resurrection Eggs
<https://savingdollarsandsense.ck.page/446b9741f9>
2. Christmas- Google search: Nativity Scene Craft
3. Mother's Day: Mom and Princess Tea Party
4. Father's Day: Dad and Pirate Party
5. Family Event: Superhero Theme
6. Fall Family Event: Carnival Games
7. Back to School services- we invited The Puzzle Team

PASTORAL CARE FOR YOUR TEAM

1. Create a team- you are better together
2. Equip your team- provide training for your team, provide resources for your team.
3. Connect your team to you and the kids- go out for coffee with your team, do a fun activity together as a team
4. Celebrate your team -celebrate birthdays, achievements
5. Encourage your team- bless them with reminders that you are appreciative of the fact that they take the time to serve in Children's Ministry
6. THANK YOUR TEAM- Each week, say THANK YOU.

