

Children's Ministry Effectiveness Model

The LOGOS model of effectiveness for children's ministry acknowledges that the ultimate statement of effectiveness is a saving relationship with God through Jesus Christ for each child. We believe that if ministry solutions help children to become active disciples of Christ...living in that saving relationship...then the ministry has been effective.

These are, however, very challenging "bottom line" criteria to observe and measure. As a result, the following 23 factors have been identified and defined by LOGOS to represent the tangible ministry characteristics that we believe underlie a ministry's consistent ability to build young disciples.

Purposeful: Is the congregation intentional about why children's ministry is vital for the church?

- The church demonstrates an intentional commitment to children.
- The congregation treats the children's ministry as a legitimate ministry of the whole church.
- The church's children's ministry is based upon a strong foundation of Christian relationships.
- The children's ministry is a balanced approach to nurturing the mind, body, and soul of children.
- The pastor is clearly supportive and is engaged, leading the integration of children's ministry into the life of the church.

Practical: Does the congregation have an effective plan and approach for implementing and sustaining the children's ministry?

- The ministry equips and supports parents in their role as the primary contributors to the spiritual development of their children
- The church uses an intentional call process to involve adults in the ministry.
- The Children's Ministry Team is intentionally defined and members are called and rotated regularly.
- Many adults with a variety of gifts are involved in the children's ministry; there is a high ratio of adults to children.
- The church regularly engages in training offered by outside resources.
- The church offers regular in-house orientation, training, preparation and support for ministry volunteers.
- The range of ages served by the children's ministry is driven by intent and strategy...not by happenstance.
- Bible Study curriculum is chosen and used in a purposeful manner – supporting stated learning objectives.
- Children are regularly scheduled to provide leadership in worship.
- The children's ministry is open to the community, particularly the unchurched, and is a tool for outreach.

Impactful: Is the effect of the children's ministry truly reflective of ministry and not merely programming?

- The environment surrounding the ministry is positive, enthusiastic, energized, and uplifting.
- Children demonstrate appropriate spiritual development and observable growth in their commitment to Christ.
- Healthy relationships are nurtured in every aspect of children's ministry, using Christ's example as the model for the way we are to care for each other.
- Healthy and active intergenerational relationships are observable in the life of the congregation and beyond.
- The children's ministry has a low turnover of children year-after-year and the number of children involved in the ministry grows over time.
- The ministry is sustainable – maintaining its vitality through significant organizational and people changes.
- Unchurched children and their families are welcome and become involved in the children's ministry.
- The church actively offers support of other churches in children's ministry effectiveness.