

VBS Childcare Team Success Tips

Connection is Key for a Smooth Drop-off

- **Know your arrival times.**
 - Be in your room ready for parents to leave their kids with you. They will need to get to their spots early enough to welcome the kids they are serving during AWWBS.
- **Connect with Parents:** Remember that the way to a parent's heart is through their kids!
 - Ask parents to share any helpful tips so that you can make the most of your time with their kids.
 - Make every effort to pick up each child and distract them as the parents are leaving.
 - Reassure any kids who might be nervous at drop-off. Ask parents questions about their child's likes and dislikes to help create a peaceful hand-off.
 - What time is their bedtime? When do they get a bottle? Is there a pacifier? What's the best way to soothe them? What kind of activities do they prefer?
 - Know the plan for the day so that you are able to answer questions that parents may have.
 - Celebrate something specific about their child during drop-off and pick-up.
- Work to soothe unhappy children, if at all possible, so their parents can serve without interruptions.

Keep Safety the Top Priority

- Check that each child has a name tag and redirect parents to Check-in if they need one.
 - This is essential so that parents have a pick-up tag for their kids at the end of the night
 - Do not release any kid without the parent pick-up tag, even if you know them.
- Maintain the **2:1 ratio** so no child is ever alone with an adult.
 - (2 leaders:1 child or 2 children:1 leader)
- Do not go into the bathroom with a child.
 - If a child needs assistance, please keep the door open and make sure another volunteer is in sight.
- Females, over the age of 16, are responsible for checking and changing all kids' diapers once per hour.
 - Wear gloves for every diaper change, wash your hands and wipe down the changing station between kids.
 - Prioritize using the diapering supplies provided by parents.
 - Give kids a "Changed with Love" sticker so parents know they were changed during their time with us.
- Be diligent in keeping a clean environment.
 - Clean or separate soiled toys to be proactive in preventing the spread of sickness.
 - Tie up soiled diapers in a bag and put in the trash.
- If anything out of the ordinary happens, please let us know.
 - Injuries, incidences with other kids that parents need to know, etc.

Entertain the kids!

- Have a plan for activities to engage your kids based on the ages and interests of the kids
 - Split up into more defined age groups, if it's helpful (like infants and toddlers, and 2-3 year olds)
 - Make note of what works well with your group so you can do more of it the next night!
 - Engage WITH them instead of just giving them things to do on their own: reading, singing and dancing, coloring, playing with toys

Communicate well!

- Let us know how things are going!
 - Your kids will be back each night so let us know anything we can do to help your time with them be amazing!
- Manage behaviors at an age-appropriate level and let us know if you need additional support
 - Give kids a choice to guide behaviors: do you want to sit on the floor or sit at the table with us? Color using a marker or crayons? Sit in time out for 4 minutes or 2 minutes before you come back to finish our game?
 - Remember the time of day and recommend quiet time and winding down to promote rest
- If you are taking your kids to a different location for any reason, be sure to let others know so that we can find you easily
 - Bathrooms, large group for the music, anywhere other than where parents dropped their kids off
- Smile and have fun! You are setting the mood of the room and the more enjoyable you are to be around, the more the kids will have fun!

Have a GREAT Week!

- **Have Fun:** Enjoy your time just as much as the kids.
- **Lead with Joy:** Let your enthusiasm come from your time with God.
- **Devotions:** Read the Leader Devotions to personally connect with the lessons you are sharing.
- **Fuel Yourself:** Remember why you're serving to stay motivated during challenging moments.
- **Pray:** Ask God for wisdom, energy, and the right heart as you lead. Pray that He will specifically use you - your time, effort and energy - for His glory!