

Vacation Bible Club Follow Up

Children often attend a Vacation Bible Club who are not regular members of our congregations. It is something to do during the summer, especially if they are not going to camp or a cottage, or they may attend because their friends are going. With the right follow up it is possible that at least some of these children might become regular Sunday School attendees. If the children begin to attend it is also possible that their parents might also!

1. If your VBC is held at the beginning of the summer, think about holding a VBC re-union in late August. Use your registration forms to call all VBC attendees. If you purchased a 10 day VBC programme and used only 5 days, you might use one of the extra day's activities for the re-union. Alternatively, plan some games, snacks and maybe a short quiet time, to last about an hour, around a theme similar to your VBC. Make the session fun and invite the children to come to Sunday School on the date you have decided to begin. You might send a colourful flyer home with each child with information as to the place, time and theme of your fall children's programme.
2. At VBC, ask one or two of your more outgoing adult helpers to make a point of getting to know the children who do not normally attend your Sunday School. Have them try to meet the children's parents if they drop them off. Consider putting together a Visitor's Kit which these helpers might take to each child's home on the evening of the first day or two of VBC. In the kit include information on church times, Sunday School, phone numbers of families in their area they might call for rides for their children, and maybe even a children's Bible storybook or a pencil with a Christian message printed on it.
3. Include a parents' evening or open house towards the end of your VBC week. Play some of the week's games, sing some of the songs asking the parents to join in, and perhaps have a class show a drama they have worked on during the week.
4. Ask your regularly attending children to make a point of asking the friends they brought with them to VBC to come back when Sunday School opens again in the fall.

Craft Materials to Try

I have been impressed by these materials seen at the Crayola display at the NBTA Elementary Council workshops in May. If you have children or grandchildren, perhaps you could try them out over the summer. (And,

no, I don't have shares in Crayola!)

Crayola project glue. This has a no-clog cap (there is a spike on the cap which extends down into the tube through which the glue flows to keep it open) As a teacher who has spent a lot of time over the years unclogging glue caps under a tap in the washrooms, this may just be worth its weight in gold! The glue cap also has a gadget which allows a child to attach it to the side of the bottle, so the cap cannot be mislaid. Finally, the glue is strong enough to stick most things well - gluesticks have their limitations! It is \$1.99.

Window Writers. These markers write well on glass and plastic, whereas most other markers bead. They wash right off with dishwashing detergent and water. They would be great for stained glass windows at Christmas. \$5.99 a pack.

Gel FX markers (\$5.99) and Gel FX coloured pencils. (\$4.96) These are vibrant colours made for use on black or other dark coloured papers. Think of the angels appearing to the shepherds in the night sky, Jesus calming the storm on Galilee, the scene in the Garden of Gethsemane, the beginning of the creation story. Also effective when used to draw Christian symbols or make cards.

September No, I know we really don't want to think about it when summer has hardly arrived yet, but this is a good idea for getting to know the children in the fall. Use 'Bingo' style cards, but put these categories where the numbers would normally go - played baseball, went to camp, had a July or August birthday, went to a family re-union, read four books, played soccer, had swimming lessons, attended VBS or VBC, visited relatives, saw 2 movies, visited another province, attended church in a different parish. Give each child a copy and ask them to mix with the other children and try to find someone who is able to put their name in each of the categories. (Of course, younger children will need help with the reading) No one may sign his or her name more than once on any paper. Allow about five minutes, then go over the results.

Prayer time This idea is from Children's Ministry magazine. This summer, get a largish wall map of Canada (or North America or the world if necessary). Put push pins on the spots where family members will be this summer, using stickies to write their names and the dates when they will be there. Use the map to help you remember to pray for them when they are away.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER