

Suggested Discipline Policy For Holiday Bible Club Meetings

The aim of this policy is to furnish team members with a simple method of controlling the children in order to assure a safe and happy environment during Holiday Bible Club.

1. All team members need to know and understand the agreed discipline policy in order to present a united, consistent and fair front!
2. The preferred method of control is by positive reinforcement of good behaviour.
3. Expected behaviour should be emphasised repeatedly each day.
4. A personal sticker from the workers will reward the memorisation of the previous days Memory Verse. Children learning all four will be rewarded with a prize at the end of the week.
5. Team points from the Meeting Leader will reward good individual behaviour, team spirit and co-operation, with prizes to be earned for the winning team at the end of the week, thereby encouraging a sense of healthy competition between the four coloured teams.
6. The Meeting Leader and all team members should ensure, and be seen to demonstrate a firm but fair approach when dealing with individuals. Getting alongside a child and befriending is far more effective than confrontation.
7. Threats should be made with extreme caution! Be prepared to keep any threats you make and ensure you have the authority to make them in the first place!
8. Unacceptable behaviour, i.e. behaviour not conforming to the emphasised expected behaviour highlighted above, should not be tolerated. For example, if quiet is requested by a team member, he or she should not commence speaking until the children are quiet.
9. If unacceptable behaviour persists:
 - ◆ Reinforcement of any good behaviour by the child or children in the vicinity should be exercised as an example;
 - ◆ Personal, realistic targets should be set which can be achieved in a short period of time, and rewarded immediately with a suitable number of team points;
 - ◆ Referral to the Meeting Leader should be used as a last resort;
 - ◆ Children should not be sent out of the room to a location where they will be alone. Workers should not accompany a child out of the room if they will find themselves alone with the child;
 - ◆ Banning from the following day's meeting should only be done by the Meeting Leader after referral from a team member, and should be considered the 'very last resort'.
10. Under no circumstances should a Meeting Leader or team member hit a child. If you feel you are losing your temper, hand the situation over to another team member. Physical restraint may only be used under law to stop a child injuring themselves or others (please see the church's Child Protection Policy for more information on this subject).