

Children's Ministry Template

Basic ideas:

- BIG actions, BIG songs, BIG excitement! Since you don't know Thai, you need to use the languages you DO know: facial expression, actions, music, and pictures!
- Repetition is always good! If your program is ever going too quickly and you have extra time, simply repeat a song or game that the kids seem to like from before, or ask them to recall it and see who can do it the best.
- Being silly and goofy, especially during singing time, really earns you respect with the kids. Then they will listen and pay closer attention when you are explaining games, reading stories, etc.

Important Concept:

Below is a basic "template" for an hour program for an "evangelistic" Kid's Club type program. To expand it to 2 hours or shorter, simply add more from each section or take out what you don't need to make it shorter.

A basic 1-hour program:

1. 5-10 min: **Welcome!** Hang out, try to say hello to every child and give them a high-five, hug, handshake, whatever they want. Be ACTIVE. Tire the kids out, even a little bit, so they won't be as restless when it comes to sitting still for a bible story or memory verse. They love piggy-backs, being swung around, playing with balloons, and playing catch, doing games etc.
2. 10-15 min: **Games!** Have at least 2-3 games prepared, such as relay races, parachute games, tag, circle games, or Duck, Duck, Goose.
3. 5-10 min: **Songs/Dramas!** Bring some CD's that you use in your kids summer camp program or VBS. Have a few team members at the front of the room leading with BIG actions (same ones you would use in Canada). Always have at least one and one girl up at the front...the boys tend to follow male leaders, and the girls tend to follow female leaders, so having one of each up front helps to keep their attention and gets them all involved! You can do 3-4 songs, depending on how the kids are doing energy-wise. Sometimes they love a song so much can do it a few times. Just play it by ear
4. 5-10 min: **Bible Story!** After praying for the group, have one of the leaders use a GIANT story book that you can bring from Canada and read the story aloud to the kids. The big book is about 2 feet high and 3 feet wide, when open, and the big pictures help the kids follow the story. Your translator will translate everything for you as well. If you don't have a big book you can just act out the story as well. Try to repeat the main point of the story every few minutes so that it really sticks. Try to incorporate a few simple actions for each story. These actions led into the memory verse...

5. 5 min: **Memory Verse!** Use a verse from the bible story. Get the kids physically engaged in the story is good. Teach the verse several times very slowly and then have your translator explain it in Thai. Then repeat it a few more times mixing up the actions or the voices etc. Or hop on one foot or do jumping jacks etc.

6. **Colouring sheet/free time!** Whatever remaining time you have, you can use for coloring or a craft that corresponds with the bible story and memory verse. Be sure to have team members stay with the kids and help them and offer praise and encouragement.

7. **Sports/Games** – if you have any extra time you can play whatever games or sports activity you have and do it outside if weather is permitting and you have a place to play etc.