



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY IN THEORY AND PRACTICE CECH6230

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Christian Education Division

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The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church.

Purpose of the Course

Children's Ministry in Theory and Practice is designed to familiarize students with issues and practices which are fundamental to ministering to and with children and families through local church.

Core Value Focus

The course will emphasize the seminary's current core value focus of Characteristic Excellence.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

This course will address the following curriculum competency:

Disciple making: Students will be equipped to promote effective ministry with children and their families to meet their spiritual and other developmental needs.

Course Description

A survey is made of Christian education ministry in the local church for children, birth through eleven years of age.

Learning Objectives

The student involved in this course will:

1. Become aware of and reflect on what the Bible has to say about children.
2. Understand ways in which preschoolers and children learn
3. Explore how the church can meet the developmental and learning needs of children and their families

4. Produce a portfolio of materials useful in developing and conducting an effective preschool and children's ministry

Required Readings

The following text and resource are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety.

- Haywood, Janice. *Enduring Connections*. Chalice Press: St. Louis, MO, 2007.
- *Family Discipleship Vision, Philosophy, and Training Manual for Volunteers*. This manual is found on the course's Blackboard within **Course Documents** and **Assignments**.

Course Teaching Methodology

Units of Study

- The Bible and Children
- Vision, Philosophy and Mission
- 21st Century Kids
- Ministry to Children and Families
- Teaching and Learning
- Children and Salvation
- Children and Worship
- Special Needs Ministry
- Recruiting and Equipping Teachers
- Programming
- Facilities
- Reducing the Risk of Abuse
- Policies and Procedures

Teaching Method. This course will utilize Discussion Boards, PowerPoints, videos, external links to internet resources, group and individual learning assignments.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

1. **Scripture Memory:** The student will memorize the following Scripture passages and recite them to a proctor. The proctor must acknowledge the successful completion of these verses in an e-mail to the student. The student is to save the e-mail as a pdf and upload it to Blackboard.

Deuteronomy 6: 4-9	Psalm 78:1-8
Mark 10: 13-16	Joel 1:3
Ephesians 6: 1-4	1 Peter 3:15
Luke 2:52	Mark 9: 36-37

2. **Scripture Reflection:** Using the Scripture passages identified in Assignment 1, the student will write a paragraph relating the value of each passage to his or her ministry.

3. **Interviews:** The student will interview a minimum of 2 Preschool and/or Children’s Ministers to gain an understanding of children’s ministry in the local church. The student will also interview a minimum of 2 parents of preschoolers and/or school-age children regarding their understanding of the church’s responsibility towards them and their child. The parents’ assessment of the effectiveness of the ministry for their family should be included. The interviews are to be transcribed verbatim into one composite file and submitted to Blackboard. No other mediums will be accepted (i.e., CDs, DVDs, cassettes, etc.).

4. **Required Reading:** The student will submit one document containing an annotated bibliographic entry as well as a statement of the percentage read for *Enduring Connections* and *Family Discipleship Vision, Philosophy, and Training Manual for Volunteers*. (See “How To” Instructions found on course’s Blackboard.)

5. **Children’s Ministry Portfolio:** The student will compile and organize a digital portfolio of children’s ministry materials. Portfolio requirements may be found at the end of this syllabus as well as under **Assignments** (on Blackboard).

6. **Philosophy of Preschool and Children’s Ministry:** The student will write a 2- to 3- page philosophy of preschool and children’s ministry which synthesizes assignments 1-5 and reflects how this course has impacted his or her understanding of children’s ministry.

Course Evaluation

Scripture Memorization	5%
Scripture Reflection	5%
Interviews	10%
Required Reading	20%
Portfolio	25%
Philosophy	15%
Participation	20%

Grading Scale

A ---	93-100
B ---	85-92
C ---	77-84
D ---	70-76

Course Policies

All assignments (excluding the portfolio) are to be submitted to Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. of the date due. **Assignments are not to be e-mailed to the professor or grader.** Assignments will not be accepted more than two weeks after the due date. All late assignments will be penalized an initial 10 points and 1 additional point for each date thereafter, including weekends.

Threaded Discussion: Students will participate weekly in the threaded discussions. These discussions are an essential component of the participation grade for the course. The week begins on MONDAY and ends on FRIDAY. A student's initial post to the must be made by Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. CST of each week. Responses to other students' posts must be made by Friday at 5:00 p.m. CST. Any threaded discussion posted after the week has ended will not be viewed by the professor or grader and will not count towards class participation for that week.

Netiquette -- Appropriate Online Behavior: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

Blackboard: The student is responsible to check Blackboard for grades, assignments, course documents and announcements. The student is responsible for maintaining current information regarding email address on the Blackboard system and SelfServe. In the online environment it is crucial that the institution has correct contact information

Course Schedule

Dates	Unit	Topic	Reading Assignment
		Introduction	
	1	The Bible and Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Haywood, "Introduction" (pages 1 – 6)
	2	Vision, Philosophy and Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Haywood, chapters 1 and 2• <i>Family Discipleship Vision</i>,
	3	21 st Century Kids	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion Board Presentations
	4	Ministry to Children and Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brian Haynes's <i>Legacy Milestones</i>
	5	Teaching and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Haywood, chapter 11
	6	Children and Salvation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Haywood, chapter 6 and appendix 2

Dates	Unit	Topic	Reading Assignment
	7	Children and Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haywood, review chapter 2 and appendix 3
	8	Special Needs Ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haywood, chapter 5
	9	Recruiting and Equipping Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haywood, chapters 4 and 9
	10	Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haywood, chapter 8
	11	Facilities	
	12	Reducing the Risk of Abuse	
	13	Developing Policies and Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haywood, chapters 10, 11 and appendix 7
	14	Concluding Observations	

Selected Bibliography

Allen, Holly Catteron, ed. *Nurturing Children's Spirituality: Christian Perspectives and Best Practices*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2008.

Alley, Steve. *Growing a Healthy Children's Ministry: Step-by-Step Handbook to Cultivating Christian Kids in Any Environment*. Boston: Standard Publishing Company, 2002.

Arthur, Kay and Cyndy Shearer. *Discover 4 Yourself, Children's Bible Study Series: Jesus in the Spotlight (John, Chapters 1-10)*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1999.

Barna, George. *Revolutionary Parenting: What the Research Shows Really Works*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 2007.

_____. *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions: Why Children Should be Your Church's #1 Priority*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2003.

Baucham, Voddie. *Family Driven Faith: Doing What it Takes to Raise Sons and Daughters Who Walk with God*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2007.

Beckwith, Ivy. *Formational Children's Ministry: Shaping Children Using Story, Ritual, and Relationship*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2010.

- _____. *Postmodern Children's Ministry: Ministry to Children in the 21st Century Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.
- _____. *The Ultimate Survival Guide for Children's Ministry Workers*. Ventura, CA: Gospel Light, 2007.
- Big Book of Bible Crafts*. Ventura, CA: Gospel Light, 2000.
- Bowman, Crystal. *The One Year Devotions for Preschoolers*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale Kids, 2004.
- Bunge, Marcia, ed. *The Child in Christian Thought*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2001.
- Campbell, Pam, and Stan Campbell. *Christian Family Guide to Family Devotions*. Edited by James Stuart Bell. Holiday, FL: Alpha, 2003.
- Chapman, Gary, and Ross Campbell. *The Five Love Languages of Children*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1997.
- Chapman, Kathleen. *Teaching Kids Authentic Worship: How to Keep Them Close to God for Life*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003.
- Choun, Robert J. and Michael S. Lawson. *The Christian Educator's Handbook on Children's Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1993.
- Clark, Sybil. *A Christian Family Guide to Parenting a Toddler*. Holiday, FL: Alpha, 2004.
- Davis, Cos H. *Children and the Christian Faith*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1990.
- Dickow, Cheryl. *Raising Christian Children in a Secular World: Christian Parenting*. Waterford, MI: Bezalel Books, 2007.
- Elliot, Betsy Rossen. *The One Year Book of Fun and Active Devotions for Kids*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale Kids, 2000.
- Group Publishing. *Children's Ministry in the 21st Century: The Encyclopedia of Practical Ideas*. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing, 2007.
- _____. *Sunday School Attendance Boosters: 165 Fresh and New Ideas*. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing, 2000.
- _____. *The Humongous Book of Games for Children's Ministry*. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing, 2001.
- Haywood, Janice. *Enduring Connections*. St Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2007.

- Hess, Valerie E., and Marti Watson Garlett. *Habits of a Child's Heart: Raising Your Kids with the Spiritual Disciplines*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2004.
- Holmen, Mark. *Building Faith at Home: Why Faith at Home Must be Your Church's #1 Priority*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2007.
- Houser, Tina. *Building Children's Ministry: A Practical Guide*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2008.
- Jones, Stan, Beth Posterski, and Catherine Stonehouse. *Children Matter*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2005.
- Keeley, Robert J. *Helping Our Children Grow in Faith: How the Church Can Nurture the Spiritual Development of Kids*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2008.
- Miller, Sue with David Staal. *Making Your Children's Ministry the Best Hour of Every Kid's Week*. Forewords by Bill Hybels and George Barna. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.
- Murphy, Art. *The Faith of a Child: A Guide to Salvation for Your Child*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2000.
- Perkins, Mitali. *Ambassador Families: Equipping Your Kids to Engage Popular Culture*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2005.
- Piper, Noel, and John Piper. *Treasuring God in Our Traditions*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2007.
- Priolo, Louis Paul. *Teach Them Diligently: How to Use the Scriptures in Child Training*. Stanley, NC: Timeless Texts, 2000.
- Roehlkepartain, Jolene L. *Fidget Busters: 101 Quick Attention-Getters for Children's Ministry*. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing, 1991.
- Stonehouse, Catherine. *Joining Children on the Spiritual Journey: Nurturing a Life of Faith*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.
- Stonehouse, Catherine, and Scottie May. *Listening to Children on the Spiritual Journey: Guidance for Those Who Teach and Nurture*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2010.
- Tripp, Tedd. *Shepherding a Child's Heart*. Rev. ed. Wapwallopen, PA: Shepherd Press, 1998.
- Vanderwell, Howard, ed. *The Church of All Ages: Generations Worshiping Together*. Foreword by Jane Rogers Vann. Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute, 2008.

Water, Mark. *What the Bible Has to Say About Children*. Nashville: Dimensions for Living, 2003.

Yust, Karen Marie. *Real Kids, Real Faith: Practices for Nurturing Children's Spiritual Lives*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2004.

Children's Ministry in Theory and Practice Portfolio Requirements

Purpose: To gather relevant information regarding Children's Ministry that can be used as a reference tool within your local church. This portfolio is to be useful in the administration of Children's Ministry.

The information received in class as well as independently will be categorized into the various headings and sections. Grades will be based on whether the student has included all course documents as well as additional resources accumulated. Remember, this assignment is designed to be a resource for you in current and future ministry opportunities. Create something that will be beneficial to you.

Portfolios will be submitted as a Google document. Specific instructions for creating a Google document are found in the *Course Support* folder on Blackboard.

The sections of the portfolio are to be:

- I. Vision, Philosophy/Mission
 - Include vision and philosophy statements from six churches.
- II. Ministry Action Plans
 - These are actions the church can take to minister to children and families during specific life events (e.g., moving, birth).
- III. Teaching and Learning/Learning Styles
 - Learning Styles
 - Multiple Intelligences
 - Learning Centers (Preschool)
 - Teaching Methodologies for Children
- IV. Programming/Curriculum
 - Areas include, but are not limited to, Sunday School, Discipleship, Music, and Missions*
 - Identify the Southern Baptist programs available for preschoolers and children. These include WMU, NAMB, IMB, and LifeWay.
 - In one sentence, highlight the purpose of each of these programs.
 - List the curriculum available for each of the programs identified.
- V. Policies and Procedures
 - Samples of children's ministry policies from 4 other churches.
 - Links to organizations that conduct background checks, offer check-in/check-out procedures, and others you find in your research.
- VI. Children and Salvation
 - Articles and other resources that will assist in sharing the Gospel message with children.

VII. Volunteers

- Recruiting
- Training/Equipping
- Motivating/Encouraging
- Evaluating

VIII. Children and Worship

- Children's Worship Bulletins
- Articles and other resources regarding children and worship

IX. Miscellaneous

This section can include any additional information the student feels is an important resource for understanding and ministering to preschoolers, children, and their families.