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.


- *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.

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**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Bible and Children</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Haywood, “Introduction” (pages 1 – 6)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 2     | Vision, Philosophy and Mission | | • Haywood, chapters 1 and 2
• *Family Discipleship Vision*, |
| 3     | 21st Century Kids | | • Discussion Board Presentations |
| 4     | Ministry to Children and Families | | • Brian Haynes’s *Legacy Milestones* |
| 5     | Teaching and Learning | | • Haywood, chapter 11 |
| 6     | Children and Salvation | | • Haywood, chapter 6 and appendix 2 |
## Selected Bibliography


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.