



# Children's Ministry in Theory & Practice

CECH6230

Spring 2015

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 and its ministries.*

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## **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 the local church.

## **Core Value Focus**

*Doctrinal Integrity* – Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. The doctrinal statements used in our evaluations are our Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

*Spiritual Vitality* – We are a worshiping community, with both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

*Mission Focus* – We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

*Characteristic Excellence* – What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Servant Leadership* – We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

Annually, the President will designate a core value that will become the focus of pedagogy for the year. For 2014-2015 academic year that Core Value is *Spiritual Vitality*.

## **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**

CECH 6230 students should:

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 texts and resources are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.

Haywood, Janice. *Enduring Connections*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2007. ISBN: 0827208219.

<http://hopeingod.org/ministries/family>. Read Bethlehem Baptist Church's Vision, Philosophy, and Training Manual for Children's Ministry which is also posted in the document section of Blackboard.

## **Course Teaching Units/Methodology**

### **Units of Study**

The Bible and Children  
Vision, Philosophy and Mission  
Ministering to Preschoolers, Children, and Families  
Children and Worship  
Children and Salvation  
Programming  
Special Needs  
Equipping Teachers  
Teaching and Learning  
Levels of Learning/Learning Styles  
Facilities  
Policies and Procedures

### **Teaching Method**

This course will utilize modified lecture, class discussion, and various media/projects.

## Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

**1. Interviews:** Students will interview a minimum of 2 Preschool and/or Children's Ministers to gain an understanding of children's ministry in the local church. Students will interview a minimum of two parents of preschoolers and/or school-age children regarding their understanding of the church's responsibility towards them and their child. The parent's 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, etc.).  
**(15%) Due Date: March 9, 2015.**

**2. Required Text Reading:** Students will read *Enduring Connections* in its entirety and be prepared for class discussions. Students will submit to Blackboard an annotated bibliographic entry as well as a statement of the percentage read.  
**(10%) Due Date: May 11, 2015.**

**3. Required Manual Reading:** Bethlehem Baptist Church's Vision, Philosophy, and Training Manual for Children's Ministry which is posted in the document section of Blackboard. Students will submit to Blackboard a statement of percentage read.  
**(10%) Due Date: May 11, 2015.**

**4. Portfolio:** Compile and organize a portfolio of children's ministry materials. Portfolios may be submitted in a 3-ring binder or as PDF files. See the attached page for portfolio requirements.  
**(35%) Due Date: April 27, 2015**

**5. Philosophy of Preschool and Children's Ministry:** Students will write a 2 to 3- page philosophy of preschool and children's ministry synthesizing assignments 1-5 and class experiences. This assignment should be submitted in the portfolio.  
**(20%) Due Date: May 11, 2015**

**6. Participation:** The student will participate in classroom discussions involving their individual work and reading.  
**(10%)**

### **Course Evaluation**

Interviews: 15%

Required Text Reading: 10%

Required Manual Reading: 10%

Portfolio: 35%

Philosophy: 20%

Participation: 10%

### **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.** Late assignments will not be accepted.

As per NOBTS policy, students must attend a minimum of six class sessions in order to receive a grade for the course. Any exception to this policy must be approved by the Dean of the Graduate Program.

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior. Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. 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.

### **Academic Honesty Policy**

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

## Course Schedule

Session	Date	Special Topic / Assignment due
1	1/26	Introduction & Overview
2	2/9	Vision, Philosophy/Mission The Bible and Children <b>Read Haywood, chapters 1 – 2; Manual, section 1</b>

3	2/23	<p>Organization/Structure/Programming</p> <p>Age-Group Characteristics and Needs/Special Needs Ministry</p> <p>Spiritual Disciplines for Children</p> <p><b>Read Haywood, chapters 8, 16; Manual, section 6</b></p> <p><b>Interviews assignment due</b></p>
4	3/9	<p>Learning Centers/Teaching Methods and Materials</p> <p>Levels of Learning/Learning Styles</p> <p><b>Interviews assignment due</b></p> <p><b>Read Haywood, chapters 5, 9; Manual, sections 7, 8, 10</b></p>
5	3/30	<p>Curriculum</p> <p>Recruiting/Equipping/Working with Volunteers</p> <p>Discipline, Guidance, Missions, Outreach and Ministry</p> <p><b>Read Haywood, chapters 4, 11, 13; Manual, sections 2, 3, 4</b></p>
6	4/13	<p>Parent/Family Education</p> <p>Policies and Procedures/Abuse and Advocacy</p> <p><b>Annotated Bibliography due</b></p> <p><b>Read Haywood, chapters 3, 7, 10, 12; Manual, section 5</b></p>
7	4/27	<p>Evangelism and Worship/Salvation</p> <p>Environment and Facilities</p> <p><b>Portfolio due</b></p> <p><b>Read Haywood, chapters 6, 14, 15, 17; Manual, sections 1, 9</b></p>
8	5/11	<p>Evangelism and Worship</p> <p><b>Portfolio due</b></p>

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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

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 class handouts and information 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 may be submitted in a 3-ring binder or as pdf files on a cd or thumb drive. Binders must be submitted with a self-addressed and stamped return envelope.**

The sections of the portfolio are to be labeled as such:

### I. Vision, Philosophy/Mission

This section will include a personal philosophy and vision statement related to Preschool and Children's Ministry. The student is to research and include other vision and philosophy statements from 6 churches of their choice.

### II. Teaching and Learning/ Learning Styles

This section focuses on the various methodologies of teaching and learning as well as the many ways children learn. Additional research on the various learning styles of students, common teaching methods, and appropriate references could also be included.

### III. Programming/Curriculum

This section focuses on the activities and events appropriate for preschool and children's ministries. The student should look for programs from a variety of churches and consider their relevance and importance for preschool and children. Resource information, publishing company contact information, and activities descriptions could be included. This section will also contain information related to curriculum. The student will consider the various curriculum opportunities available and include possible vendors, templates, theories of development, etc.

### IV. Policies and Procedures

The policies and procedures of a church or parachurch organization are vital to the health and growth of a ministry. This section is to include safety guidelines, children's policy and procedure (from current church if available) and samples of children ministry policies and procedures from 4 other churches (i.e., not the student's own church). Background check forms, volunteer application forms and the like are also to be included in this section.

### V. Children and Salvation

This section will include methods and theories relative to children and salvation. Students may include articles and other resources that will assist in sharing the Gospel message with children.

## VI. 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.