



ADVENTURE KIDS

How to calm a reluctant child Process and Procedures

These procedures and protocols are designed to equip all teachers and leaders with tools to help a reluctant child join service so they can encounter God.

Inviting the child in:

When a child is reluctant to come into service, we never know why. It could be many possibilities. They could be trying to manipulate their parents. They could have gotten into an argument with someone in the family or they could be dealing with something really sad. We want to comfort them and let them have a safe place to grow in the Lord.

1. Talk to the child at their level. If you can, get down so you are face to face and ask their name or check name tag so you can call them by it. This creates the feeling that you know them and care.
2. Find out what they like. Now that you have greeted the child find out what they like to do. This can get their mind off missing their parents.
3. Steer them toward an area or activity they may like. When you take them over introduce them to another child who may be more outgoing and would be likely to play with them.
4. If they are still reluctant you can ask them if they would like to try playing for a little bit. Let them know we can call mom and dad later if they are still sad after they try for a bit.
5. Reassure the child that their parents will only be in the other room for a little bit and they will come back to get them soon.
6. If all else fails and you cannot get the child to calm down after 10 minutes call the parents. Ministry will not be happening if they are being a distraction to the rest of the kids.

Interacting with parents:

It is policy that parents cannot come into the room if they are not background checked however, we will always get parents who ask/try to come in if their child is reluctant.

1. Let them know its our policy to not have non background checked people in the room for all the children's safety.
2. Encourage them that most children calm down minutes after the parents leave.
3. Let the parents know they are more than welcome to watch their child on the screen in the hallway until they feel comfortable going into service.

4. If you do have to call the parents reassure them that we will try again next time and it gets easier. Letting parents know we will work with them to make the transition as easy as possible.

Results

The children feel safe and loved when they come to church. They are excited to learn and encounter God. Their parents feel they can entrust us with their most precious gift from God, their children.