

Planning Steps: Working with Ages 6-11

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"God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well." Romans 12:6a NLT

Children in this age group are growing into their personalities and learning styles. Children's ministry leaders have the joy of watching these personalities develop, and the challenge of leading a program that engages all varieties of learning styles. Read through the following list of Learning Styles, keeping yourself and your kids in mind.

Linguistic

Good At: Writing, Verbal Expression, Nuance of Meaning

Enjoys: Words, Reading, Storytelling, Writing

Learns By: Reciting, Hearing, Reading, Following written instructions

Teacher's Tip: Write it down, Have them recite, Mean what you say (e.g. sarcasm)

Logical

Good At: Problem-solving, Math, Reasoning

Enjoys: Patterns, Numbers, Relationships

Teacher's Tip: Acknowledge right or wrong answers

Don't discourage students from "pigeon-holing" some concepts or people (they are probably not being prejudiced, just needing to fit the information into a category)

Musical

Good At: Musical memory, Making and manipulating sound

Enjoys: Sounds, Rhythm, Melody, Singing

Teacher's Tip: Channel sound-making to the benefit of the lesson, Have them create tunes, Allow variations to the "norm"

Visual / Spatial

Good At: Mapping, Charting, Sculpting, Modelling

Enjoys: Drawing, Building, Designing, Visualizing

Teacher's Tip: Visual Aids, Use colour to differentiate, Use Objects, Don't rely totally on words

Children in this age range are developing their problem-solving and cause/effect skills. Make sure that your lessons and activities engage their curious minds. Here are some tips:

1. Ask 'what would happen if...?' questions
2. Challenge them to explain their opinions
3. Ask 'would you rather...?' questions
4. Challenge them to predict the outcome of stories
5. Challenge them to judge between multiple choices in moral issues
6. Challenge them to predict and explain motive in stories or moral issues
7. Challenge them to predict the impact of their actions (on themselves and others)
8. Challenge them to dissect a story or situation into its cause and effect components

MY NOTES:

Tactile / Kinaesthetic

Good At: Hand-eye coordination, Movement, Physical Expression, Sports

Enjoys: Moving, Handling, Touching

Teacher’s Tip: Channel movement, Provide texture or objects to touch, Impromptu skits, Don’t require them to sit still all through class

Extroverted

Good At: Empathizing, Leading, Communicating, Negotiating

Enjoys: Interacting, Talking, Teams, Imagining Another’s Feelings

Teacher’s Tips: Allow time for discussion and interaction, Mentor leadership skills, Be a good example, "Share & Tell", Don’t yell at the whole class

Introverted

Good At: Self-analysis, Introspection, Application, Feelings

Enjoys: Working alone, Quietness, Independent work

Teacher’s Tip: Give attention to the introverts, so the extroverts don’t dominate the program, Monitor Noise, Give choices between group and individual work, Give them time to process information

REFLECTION:

1. What is my learning style?

2. What is my teaching/leading style?

3. Which learning style do I find the most challenging to engage as a leader?

PRACTICE POINT: *Choose a story from the Bible and brainstorm ways to teach the story that engage the learning styles.*
