

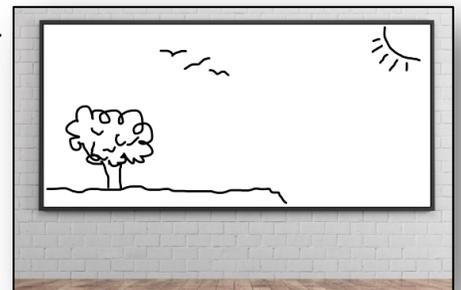
## Making The Children's Ministry Team "Fun"

Steve Alley

People continue doing what is enjoyable to them. People tend to stop doing what is boring, hard, or uncomfortable. Wouldn't it be great if serving in the children's ministry was known as "fun"? Here is a list of things that might help with making the children's ministry "fun."



1. Eating at the weekly meetings (something yummy, even if it isn't a full meal).
2. Sharing "vision stories" at the weekly meetings. Use these stories to compliment and encourage the one who tells the story. Laugh together at funny stories! Encourage laughter and don't take the ministry so seriously!
3. Be "vulnerable" at the weekly meetings. Be honest, about fears, and be vocal about joys! Use periodic statements like, "Somebody needs a hug" to stimulate physical forms of encouragement after someone shares a story. (Or get up and walk around and hug the person yourself.)
4. Playing during meetings about statements or things people say - without becoming hurtful.
5. Personal, vulnerable prayers at the weekly meeting. Break the natural "rut" of simply praying before and after a meeting. Let others pray and celebrate the "intimacy" of these moments.
6. Be spontaneous at the weekly meeting. If you talk about a song, get a guitar, and sing it together!
7. "MBWA" (Ministry By Walking Around) - This is a vital function in developing a strong, happy team. This needs to happen during services. Walk around and "pop into" rooms before the service to encourage and pray for the team members. Repeat this vital activity after the service and ask about the team members' experiences and compliment them! If you have a paid CM leadership team who work in the office with you, do a little "MBWA" periodically during the week in the office. Talk about their comments during a meeting, their struggles with a team member, their current projects, their family, or even the stuff on their desk. Don't make it look like you're "making the rounds" in the office - just do one at a time. The more casual it appears, the stronger the impact. As you end your brief time with the person, say something that "sticks with them" like, "It is so great that you're on our team!" As you walk away, the person will "hide" that time with you in his/her heart!!!
8. Noisy CM office - Interactive noise is a great indicator of happiness! If the noise in the CM office has quieted down, stir it up again! Break the noise wall by yelling from your office to another person who does or says something loudly. Involve the whole office complex in on the fun!
9. Start an "expanding" picture on a whiteboard in the CM office area. Start with a simple drawing, and let others add to it. It is fun to see the picture grow, and wonder about, or comment on what each person has added to the picture! This is "crazy, silly fun"!
10. A "white elephant" item that won't go away! Create an ugly/silly item that is given to a fellow CM leader when he/she needs encouragement. The item simply shows up on his/her desk anonymously when he/she needs encouragement or celebration. This item can be an ugly ceramic piece, a kid's toy, an ugly plastic pitcher, etc. It has to be big enough to show up and stand out. It has to be unusual enough that it makes people ask, "What's that?" You can start it at a weekly meeting, introduce it, and then wait a couple of days before you



put it on someone's desk. Then, they are tasked with the responsibility to look for the right person who needs it next and pass it on to them.

11. Personal hugs and connections. This is like the "MBWA," but more connected to specific challenges or prayer requests. These personal times of holding, praying, and direct eye contact build bridges made of titanium!
12. Personal emails to a fellow leader. This is similar to #11 above. The more you do this, the deeper the joy in the ministry!