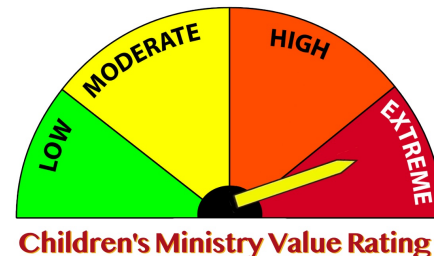


Raising The Value of The CM

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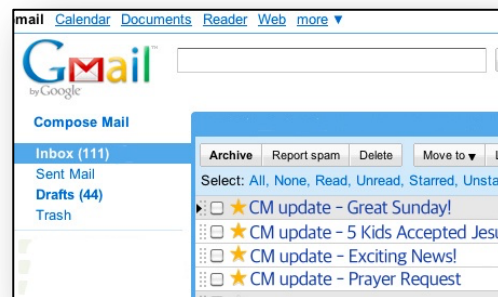
Traditionally, the children's ministry (CM) has been viewed as a necessary part of the functioning of the local church. The CM may be even referred to as "childcare" or "babysitting." To those of us who serve in the CM, we know that so much more occurs during CM programs than simply "babysitting" or "childcare." The CM team is building foundations for future spiritual strength in the lives of the children. The CM is a vibrant, life-changing, significant part of the local church!

If you feel that your particular local church doesn't view the work that is done in the CM as vibrant and critical, there are some things that you can do to improve that perspective. Keep in mind that this effort is deeply spiritual, and that God must lead and bless all that you do in this area. The first thing you must do is to begin praying for a "revival" in the perspective regarding CM on the part of the church administration.



It is important for those in other ministries, or areas of the church, to be "trained" to "think twice" about doing something that impacts the CM! In planning meetings, or calendar setting, everyone should pause to consider, "How will this affect the children's ministry?" The only way to reach that level of respect is through constant, consistent work (and prayer) on your part. Here are some ways to raise the value and awareness of the children's ministry in the church, and among the other leaders:

1. **React** - Respectfully, humbly, yet with resolve, react to something that is done without considering the CM. Use terms like, "We can't have that happen again," or "We need to make sure that the rooms are ready for the CM on Sunday or Wednesday!" Speaking up for the children and the CM raises the value what you do instantly! Without speaking up, this will be repeated!
2. **Retrain** - Speak regularly against the use of the demeaning terms "babysitting," or "childcare." Be a "dripping faucet" about using the term "children's ministry." Train those in church leadership to view "childcare" or "babysitting" as curse words!
3. **Testify** - In church leadership meetings, you MUST be vocal about the CM! Always ask to share success stories and needs. Speak up for the children! The more you testify about the CM, the more the others will join you in valuing the CM, and the work that God is doing there. Don't be quiet! You may be the ONLY person who will speak for the children!
4. **Communicate** - Do all you can to keep the senior pastor informed and "in the loop." You can never over-communicate! Send him regular emails/reports that give him enough information to support you. If he is "in the dark," you can't expect him to know how to support you. You should create regular, weekly "CM Updates" that you send to him, and maybe other church pastors as well. Make sure that these communications are always positive. The more regular, positive communications you send, the more interested they will be in your needs! These "updates" can include attendance reports, prayer requests, interesting things you observed, comments from parents, comments from kids, etc. If you do these things, you'll slowly see an increase in the value of the children's ministry.



"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15: 58