CM "Outside The Box" Thinking
Examining new ideas or changes in light of today's children and families.
Steve Alley

Premise

There is a growing emphasis on "change" in today's American culture. The assumption is that the way we've done things for years is "old fashioned," or "ineffective"; and "new" things are better. Today's younger leaders want something that looks and "feels" new, and "fresh." This challenge is not necessarily bad, if it compels us to review and revise our CM programs and processes; but, we must be careful about making changes for the sake of making changes. Changes should only be made if an improvement in ministry effectiveness is verified. To change something that "works," may not be the best decision. Making changes should be a spiritual matter that involves prayer and much consultation!

Consider utilizing collaborative brainstorming technology by Miro to coordinate creative ideas. Miro.com

CM Programs

1. Switch from age-based classes to large group / small group format.
2. Begin a midweek large group, variety program utilizing rotating CM teams.
3. Build a guest-based large group program utilizing parents and specialists.
4. Build a midweek "camp" program.
5. Create an "experimental" mindset for periodic experiments in programming.
6. Develop a "Hot Topics" class for upper elementary children.
7. Develop a "Stump The Stars" program utilizing youth, or church leaders.
8. Develop a Zoom-based program with visits and interviews.
9. Develop a contemporary hero-based program utilizing "live" and Zoom visits.

CM Procedures / Schedules

1. Check in at large group room, then check out at classrooms.
2. Substitutes scheduled through online system.
3. Children used as greeters at doorways.
4. Utilize social networking capability more actively.
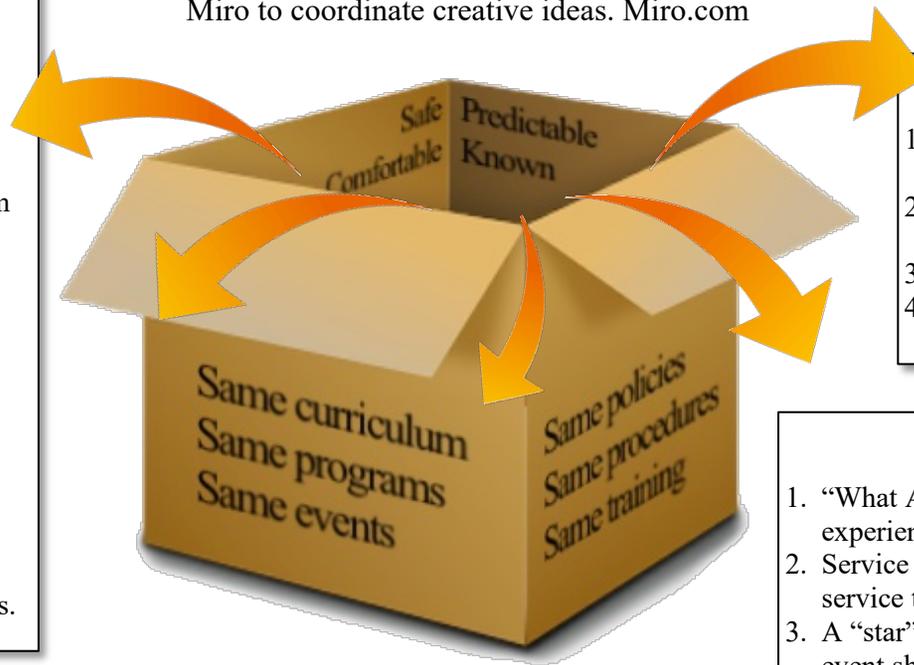
CM Events

1. "What A Mess!" – a summer family day of messy experiences ending with a wash down and a meal.
2. Service projects that operate during normal church service times.
3. A "star" guest appearance (BMX stunt team, etc.) event shared with youth ministry.
4. "Old Fashioned Park Day" including relay races, contests, potluck, etc.
5. "Boy To Man" event involving fathers and sons (or stepdads) in physical and spiritual challenges.
6. "Girl To Woman" event involving mothers and daughters (or stepmoms) in nurturing (cooking, decorating, caring for, etc.) and spiritual challenges.
7. CM "Open House" – type events.

CM Curriculum

1. Develop curriculum around programming changes.
2. Create a curriculum based on current "trends" or news stories.
3. Create a movie clip-based curriculum.
4. Create a song-based curriculum.
5. Create a kid question-based curriculum.

CM Training

1. Online video-based training.
2. Training during church service.
3. "Hidden Camera" training – "live" situations in classroom viewed on screen and discussed.
4. Watch/debrief/discuss cycle of classroom visits.

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