

Guidelines For Creating A Worship Environment

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Is children's worship just a few fun songs and hand motions, or is it something deeper. Scripturally, the concept of "worship" is not only connected to singing; but is also connected to declaring God's glory, identifying His marvelous deeds, "fearing" Him, giving Him an offering, recognizing His holiness, "trembling" before Him, accepting His reign in our lives! (1Chronicles 16:23-31)

The "worship experience" must go beyond songs or singing! We must create an "environment" that draws the children into intimacy with God. Here are some principles and guidelines of creating an environment that inspires worship.



Principles / Guidelines

1. **An Attractive Environment** – Create an attractive environment using lighting, sounds, smells, food, activities, and visuals!
2. **Personally Greet** – Personally greet each child as they enter with eye contact, smiles, and physical contact (high fives, pats on back, fist bumps, etc.).
3. **Personally Interact** – Personally interact with the children during pre-service activities or games (if applicable), and as they find their seats.
4. **Introductory Video** – Show a fun introductory video (ideally, lesson-related).
5. **Official Beginning** – Officially greet the children from the front of the room with a statement of praise to God, and an invitation to worship Him. Lesson-related questions or statements might also be expressed.
6. **Opening Prayer** – Open the worship time with a prayer to God, praising Him for who He is, and asking Him to receive the worship of the children.
7. **Remove Separations** – As much as possible, remove separations between the children and the worship leader(s). This includes removing microphone stands, music stands, and physical distance (get on their level).
8. **Use Visuals** – Use song-related visuals in conjunction with song lyrics.
9. **Use Movements** – Use song-related movements in conjunction with song lyrics. No movements during "thoughtful" songs.
10. **Upbeat and Thoughtful Blend** – Create a blend of "upbeat" and "thoughtful" songs.
11. **Song Introductions** – Briefly introduce each song and focus the children's attention on the essence of the song, and the majesty of the Lord!
12. **Focused Attention** – Assist in focusing the children's thoughts and prayers prior to the "thoughtful" songs. If possible, reinforce that focus during the songs as well.
13. **Well-Rounded** – Create a blend of fun, movement, and worship. The most important is worship (if needed cut or reduce the other two).
14. **A Blend of Adult and Kid Songs** – Create a blend of adult worship songs, classic worship songs, and "kid" songs.
15. **Connection To Lesson** – If applicable, connect the song choices to the lesson topic for the particular service.