

# Build A Life-changing Children's Church Using Drama and Activities

## Children Enjoy Drama

"They want life to explode all around them. [This generation] doesn't want their information straight. They want it laced with experience; hence the new term 'edutainment.' The more extreme the experience, the better... [This generation] will do most anything not to lose connection to the experience of life."

*Leonard Sweet, Post Modern Pilgrims*

## Children Crave Variety

"We need to trust children's capacity to be motivated to want to please God because they love Him and want to be like Him."

*Misty Anne Winzenried, as quoted in Children's Ministry*

## Children's Church Principles

- A different environment from Sunday school
- A sense of worship
- Focus on older age group

"Knowledge alone isn't enough for these children; what they learn must have life-application. They're high tech and high touch. They need challenging learning environments and close relationships with others."

*Angela Lasley, as quoted in Children's Ministry Magazine*

## Children's Church Program Ideas

- Elective Centers "Round Robin" – (*Children rotate through centers - crafts, games, guests, or Bible stories.*)
- Sunday School "General Session" – (*Large group worship, prayer, and skit before small group classes.*)
- "Bible Character Encounter" – (*Children "interview" an adult dressed as a "Bible character."*)
- "Special Forces" Worship – (*An organized service project carried out during the children's church hour.*)
- Worship-On-The-Road – (*Children take a bus to a location (river for a baptism study, etc.) for the lesson.*)
- Game Show – (*Create a "church version" of popular game shows using questions that relate to your lesson.*)

## Invite Interesting Guests

Law enforcement agents (FBI, police)  
"Mad Scientist" (do experiments)  
Animal trainers (bring animals)  
Military personnel (bring equipment)  
Heavy equipment operators (with tractor)

BMX bike riders (demonstrate)  
Skateboarders (demonstrate)  
Motorcycle racers (bring a motorcycle)  
Fire fighters (bring a fire truck)  
Automobile racers (bring a racecar)

Sports stars (sign autographs)  
Pilot (land a helicopter)  
Jugglers  
Actors / actresses

## Children Want To Help Others

### Worldwide

America's Second Harvest [secondharvest.org](http://secondharvest.org) Save the Children [savethechildren.com](http://savethechildren.com) Compassion [compassion.com](http://compassion.com)  
Shoes For Orphan Souls [shoesfororphansouls.org](http://shoesfororphansouls.org) Samaritan's Purse [samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org) Food for the Hungry [fh.org](http://fh.org)  
Week of Compassion [weekofcompassion.org](http://weekofcompassion.org) The Peace Corps [peacecorps.gov](http://peacecorps.gov) Heifer International [heifer.org](http://heifer.org)  
Action By Churches Together (ACT) [actalliance.org](http://actalliance.org) World Vision [worldvision.org](http://worldvision.org)

### Emergency Needs

The Global Hope Network [globalhopenetwork.org](http://globalhopenetwork.org) Church World Service Emergency Response [churchworldservice.org](http://churchworldservice.org)  
The Red Cross [redcross.org](http://redcross.org)

### Within The Community

Boys & Girls clubs [bgca.org](http://bgca.org) Thrift stores Orphanages  
Servant Evangelism [stevesjogren.com](http://stevesjogren.com) Homeless shelters Retirement / rest homes  
Points of Light [pointsoflight.org](http://pointsoflight.org) Churches Orphanages  
Weekend sports games Hospitals

# Unleash the power of S.K.I.T.S. by following these simple, proven principles:

## Script adlib:

- ◆ Memorize the order of “events” and key lines, not word-for-word. Adlib the dialogue!
- ◆ Rehearse your “freeze cue lines” carefully. POST THE SKIT OUTLINE AT ENTRANCES.

## Keep rehearsals to a minimum:

- ◆ Don't rehearse mid-week. Distribute the script one or more weeks in advance, then meet for rehearsal 90 minutes before “show-time” to rehearse the blocking (traffic pattern).
- ◆ Surprise and include the kids; plan entrances and exits around them.
- ◆ Play with the kids and talk with them during the skit. Be careful not to overdo this, though.
- ◆ If you rotate teams, change names. Kids won't accept two Harvey characters, etc.
- ◆ Use one team for multiple services. After skit, they go to church. Use others for songs & activities.

## Interrupt the action with a “freeze”:

- ◆ At “choice-making” moments, make a sound (bell, horn, etc.) to freeze the actors on stage.
- ◆ Ask questions from the “Sermon Notes.” Undo the “moral mind-numbing” of today's media culture.
- ◆ Pastor Rufus presents part of the sermon at this “freeze” as he walks around the frozen actors. Repeat the sound to resume the action. The kids will see if their suggestions are implemented in the skit.
- ◆ If you choose not to use the freezes, BE SURE SERMON MINGLES WITH SKIT!

## Teach the way Jesus taught:

- ◆ Skits apply biblical truth to solve the real-life conflicts children face. Portray their environment, use their language, and address their concerns in parable-like stories.
- ◆ Use the visuals, objects, and interactive suggestions provided in the skit/sermon.
- ◆ Use the “imaginary world” of the skit, like Jesus used the “imaginary world” of the parable.
- ◆ Dress as “real kids,” not in goofy costumes. Use kids’ current toys, interests, and expressions.
- ◆ Use the powerful imaginations of the kids with “pantomime.” Let them “pretend” a row of chairs is a bed, etc. Don't build elaborate sets; it makes storytelling a burden.

## Skit-related activities:

- ◆ Minister to the various learning styles of the children through skit-related activities each week.
- ◆ Choose from several options provided based on time available and your children’s population.
- ◆ Use the actors as small group discussion leaders after the skit.
- ◆ Draw from the “Recall” questions for an optional review session at the end of the series of skits.

## How to start SKITuations at your church:

- ◆ Recruit five one-time volunteers to act out a skit in “big church” in front of prospective adult volunteers. Place a “Character Volunteer Form” in the bulletin, invite them to an “interest” meeting.
- ◆ At an “interest” meeting, show the training video and review the curriculum.
- ◆ Organize one or more teams to perform weekly, monthly, or in rotation by series. If you use two teams, change the names; the children become attached to their “soap stars”!

*Visit [christianskitsource.com](http://christianskitsource.com)*