

Children's Ministry Production Ingredients

To create a thematic "flow"

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Foundation

The goal in a CM production is to build toward a biblical life-application, or invitation. It's possible to hold a CM production whose purpose is not to build toward a life-application or invitation; like a talent show, or a family fun night.



Entertainment / Motivational Principles

1. **Interest** opens the mental and emotional "doorway" to learning and change. If an experience is not viewed as "interesting," it is instantly classed as "boring" and the mental and emotional "doorways" are shut tightly.
2. **Connection** with the audience is critical before the audience "lets you in" and accepts your presentation. This connection must relate to the audience's life, needs, interests, and experiences.
3. **Advancing "bites" of information** must be given as the production "flows" toward the end challenge. These thematic "bites" can be in the form of songs, short drama scenes, art presentations, video clips, repeated humor, etc. The "bites" increase the audience's awareness of the topic/theme, and their readiness to accept the challenge at the end of the production.
4. **Verbal reviews** periodically throughout the production to assist the audience in staying "on track" as they progress toward the final life-application or altar call. These reviews can be before or after a song or a thematic "bite."

Ingredients of An Effective Production

1. **Greeting / Introduction** – This greeting introduces the theme, the talent, the singer, and the thematic "bites" that will be enjoyed. The introduction could also highlight the goal for the production (the life-application and / or altar call).
2. **Connection With The Audience** – This critical part of the production calls attention to the need for the topic / theme, and shows that the audience is understood. Example: *"Isn't it hard to not get angry when someone makes fun of you?"*
3. **Theme-Related "Bites"** – Short drama scenes, art presentations, video clips, repeated humor, etc. that advance the theme/topic between songs.
4. **"Song / Bite / Song" Sequence** – Depending on the length of the production, this sequence may include many segments, or just a few. The songs and "bites" must be chosen and placed carefully to advance the theme/topic toward the end challenge. The songs must be introduced in order to clearly identify the purpose for them in relation to the advancing theme/topic challenge.
5. **Concluding / Summary Challenge** – This short challenge ties the entire production together, and connects it all to the introductory statement or question that made a connection with the audience. This concluding, summary challenge may be a specific life-application challenge, or an altar call.
6. **Final Celebration** – This final celebration can be a song, or a dramatic effect (balloons, beach balls, light show, dancers, etc.). It is the culmination of the production, and celebrates God's presence and power regarding the theme/topic of the production.

