

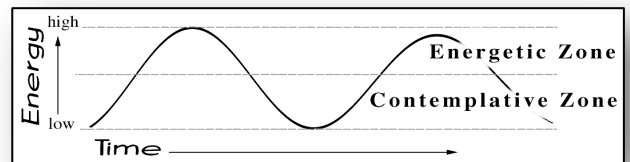
# Principles of Fruitful Large Group Productions

*Producing large group productions that connect with children and produce “fruit.”*

In the hopes of presenting the “best” productions for the children’s ministry (CM), it is a challenge to determine what indeed is “best.” The definition of “good,” or “best” is affected by the adults evaluating the programs, as well as by the children. In both the adults and the children, the evaluation of the production is affected by their age, their backgrounds, their experiences, and their likes and dislikes. It is nearly impossible to design the “best” production based solely on the opinions of others. We must identify the critical aspects or principles of a good production from the perspective of the church’s vision, and be ready to let some “like” and “dislike” the results!

## Principles of A “Good” CM Production

1. **Reflects the church vision** – Make sure that the production furthers the church vision and the “Great Commission.”
2. **Attractive to children**
  - a. Identifiable by kids – contains topics that today’s kids understand and talk about.
  - b. Interesting to kids – includes topics or content that kids want to know more about.
3. **Fun for children**
  - a. Interactive – lets the children talk back, voice opinions, and give answers.
  - b. Surprising – surprises come in the spoken dialog, staging, entrances, visuals, etc.
  - c. “Sensual” (involving the senses) – incorporating visuals, smells, sounds, feelings.
  - d. Funny – use of humor, jokes, slapstick, realistic behavior gone “bad.”
  - e. Messy – use of water, messy liquids, gross stuff, falling items (glitter, powdered sugar, etc.).
  - f.
4. **Energy curve**
  - a. Times of high energy excitement
  - b. Times of low energy, thoughtful moments
5. **Contains clear scripture passage/principle**
  - a. Easily understood by children
  - b. Repeated often
6. **Includes a clear, realistic (age-appropriate) challenge for application**
  - a. Something the children can use/apply today!
  - b. Something that is measurable next week



### The “Golden Rule” of Productions

*If it isn’t meaningful to the children, it is meaningless!*

## Add Some “Sauce” To A “White Rice” Program or Script!



**Attractive To Children**

Change the settings, plots, lines, or songs to match the children in the audience! Remove “dated” references. Add terms, titles, objects or lines that the children know, and use today!



**Fun For Children**

Add some interaction with the children. Let them react, give opinions, etc. Add some visuals, smells, sounds, and feelings! Add some humor or funny physical comedy. Add some surprises through adlib or unusual entrances. Add some mess to the stage or audience.



**Scriptural Principle**

If there isn't a clear scriptural principle that is the focus of the script or idea, add one. If there is more than one scriptural principle, remove one. Use and repeat the one scriptural principle many times throughout the program.



**Age Appropriate Challenge**

If there isn't a clear, age-appropriate application challenge that the children can apply today or tomorrow, add one! Without a realistic, repeated, life challenge, the program is just entertainment!



### **Script or Production Idea**

Every script or production idea can be compared to a bowl of white rice. It may contain “the basics,” but it may need some “sauce” to make it more attractive or effective for children.