

Children's Ministry Leaders: Preventing Burnout

Children's Ministry leaders work under the leadership of the pastors. They bring the pastoral vision to life through the curriculum they implement, the volunteers they help train and enlist, and by generally encouraging families. They provide regular updates to keep the pastors informed, so they can care well for families and volunteers.

Your Ministry IS Children's Ministry

- Children's Ministry leaders are often the "stop gap" for last minute substitutes and other classroom issues. If there's a need, they are called to meet it.
- They can become so busy filling urgent needs, that their own spiritual needs are neglected.
- They carry most of the huge burden of enlisting, training and managing teachers; finding (or creating) good curriculum; and, caring well for the needs of many, different families.
- They have to be willing to be the "on-call, bad cop" who enforces difficult but necessary policies for everyone's good.

What Churches Can Do:

- Have a designated pastor who oversees and encourages the whole Children's Ministry team. He schedules regular meetings with the team to keep informed and to know how he and the other pastors can best care for the leaders, teachers, and families involved. He initiates any needed pastoral conversations with Children Ministry workers, teachers, or parents. He shares the job of enforcing difficult policies. He reviews and approves any curriculum choices. He reports back to the other pastors for their prayers, input, and further oversight.
- Recognize Children's Ministry deacons who work alongside the Children's Ministry Administrator/team (CMA) to welcome families, support teachers, and otherwise keep Children's Ministry programs running smoothly on Sundays or other program days. They are a great help to families, teachers, and the CMA.
- Designate Children's Ministry team leaders to take over much of the CMA's burden of finding substitutes and other last-minute program issues.
- Shepherd your CMA and deacons well by ensuring they regularly attend worship services. CMA's need regular vacation breaks, too. Well-trained assistants and program team leaders can help your programs run smoothly, even in their absence.