

Further Training

If you, your church or deanery would like to receive further training on any aspect of working with children please contact Yvonne Morris, (details overleaf) for information on our 123 training .

1—for those brand new to working with children. This stream offers the very basics to build your knowledge, understanding and confidence in the principles and practices of working with children.

2— for those who've been doing it for a while and need some refreshment, a little challenge and further understanding in various aspects of ministry with children.

3— coming soon! A strand for those who want to take studying to a greater depth.



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Resources for
Children's Ministry

Starting from Scratch Part One



Practical guidance and ideas for thinking through the issues prior to starting an after-school or evening club from scratch.

Starting from Scratch Part One

Running groups and clubs for children can be hugely rewarding, but if you're starting from scratch where do you begin? Here are some things to think through before starting up.

What type of club is it going to be?

- Project based – sport, drama, arts, music or worship group, multi-activity, totally Bible-based or other?
- Open to all, membership only, 'Community' kids or church families only?
- What sort of 'Christian experience' will it be for the young people - First contact with Christians/church, openly evangelistic, discipleship?



Who's it for?

- Gender specific or mixed
- What age group? – don't go too wide – consider child development – physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually. Go with school years rather than ages!



What time will it run?

- Lunchtime, after-school or evening
- Research what goes on in the locality that will affect membership, - there is no point starting a boys group for 11-14's on a night that clashes with scouts or football & wonder why only a few boys come to

your group!!

- An hour can be long enough (for the children & you!!!). Don't be afraid to run 'shorter' clubs/groups. It's important for children and leaders to have a good experience so don't try to run a 2 hour long club if the children can only cope for 1 hour!



Who will run it?

- Where will your volunteers come from? (Church, parents of children, students)
- How many leaders will you need? (child protection ratios)
- Who's in charge when the main leader is not there?
- Consider how time of day affects volunteers – Getting male volunteers if your club runs between 4 & 5pm is very difficult because many men who might volunteer will be at work. Similarly, running a club between 6 & 7.30 cuts out many potential helpers with young families as its teatime & bedtime.



- What commitment can volunteers give (every week, fortnightly, monthly)
- Do you require them to be Christian?
- Use their gifts – craft person, run around games, welcomer, Tuck Shop person and so on.
- What qualifications do they need (if any) – First Aid, Food hygiene, sports coaching, teaching...
- Also consider duration – It may be best to go with the term times of school in your locality. Do different things in the holidays – trips, outings, ice cream (it doesn't have to be big!)



Where will it be held?

- Church premises, schools premises, other community use building.

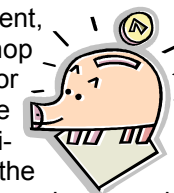
- Consider health & safety implications

Who is responsible for the club (accountable to whom)?

- Transparency is critical. Giving regular reports to the Vicar, a steering group, the PCC, head teacher or governors.

Who will fund the club?

- For rent, equipment, resources, tuck-shop outlay, expenses for helpers (travel?) are all potential expenditure to be paid. Is the club self funding through subs or funded from a church budget or other grant so it's free or there is only a nominal fee.
- Consider the area – in the parish where I work many parents wouldn't send their children to a 'free' club because they are used to paying for quality. If it's free they don't believe it's good. However, at our sister church (the other end of the economic scale) only a nominal fee is charged because otherwise the children couldn't afford to come so the club is subsidised by the church.
- If it's a lunch-time schools club who provides the resources? You, your church or the school?



Apply best practise regarding Child Protection and Health and Safety. Get and read a copy of 'Protecting Children in the Diocese of Oxford' (every church should have one or purchase a copy from Diocesan Church House).

Get further advice and training from the Diocesan Children's Adviser (see overleaf).