
ARTICLE #5: HOW TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL CLASSROOM

CHARACTERISTICS OF A SUCCESSFUL CLASSROOM:

- 1) The team is unified and organized.
- 2) Team members are trained and implement the Oasis policies & procedures.
- 3) Team members arrive promptly and prepared to fill their role.
- 4) The class is adequately staffed.
- 5) Children & team members are actively engaged in all the activities.
- 6) Team members prepare and deliver exciting, engaging teachings.
- 7) Student workers are incorporated into the activities & teaching rotation.
- 8) Team members are responsive to input and willing to work through issues.
- 9) Team members communicate with and support each other.
- 10) Team members are excited for the opportunity to work with children.
- 11) Team members turn to God and trust that He will provide all spiritual support needed to make the classroom successful.
- 12) Team members prepare and deliver exciting, engaging, age-appropriate teachings.

SOME THOUGHTS GLEANED FROM OUR VOLUNTEERS:

CONSISTENCY

- Have the same worker check-in students so they get to know the kids and parents.
- Consistency among the volunteers is important. Try to have people work on the together on the same schedule.
- Map out behavior expectations and discipline procedures on the first week, and coordinate with all team members so there is consistency from week to week.

SERVING TOGETHER

- Have people from your Home Group serve in the classroom together!
- Teaching and doing ministry with others from your Home Group creates unity in your group and fosters healthy relationships in the classroom.

PRAYER

- Prayer before class is necessary. View the class as a spiritual investment. Recognize that the enemy will engage against the class with spiritual warfare.
- If you are serving with others from your Home Group, make prayer for your Oasis class a regular part of your Home Group prayer meeting.

LONG-TERM SERVICE

- Consider moving up with students for continued relationships and long-term impact.
- Volunteers who have been with the program for several years learn how to complete the administrative tasks efficiently, thus freeing up time to be flexible and creative with the lesson elements.

COMMITMENT

- Classes that show the most growth have people who are committed to the students. Many of these volunteers choose to be in the classroom every week or at the minimum every-other-week because of the increased opportunity to impact the students.
- Likewise, if team members are poor about showing up on time, being prepared and only come to the class infrequently, the students notice and will not exhibit the same growth and cooperation with teachers.
- One of the most important elements is to have a team that has a vision for and passion for the work. Share the success stories with all Team Members. *A Real Example: A few years back at a baptism, I heard a young mother (whom I recognized as the mother of a girl that had been in my Oasis class) sharing how her daughter had been brought to Xenos by her grandmother for some months, and that it was her daughter's testimony that lead her to Christ. So, someone or something in my class had a large role in bringing someone to salvation that was not even there.*

OVERSIGHT & COMMUNICATION

- Even if the Team Leader is not in the classroom, they check in each week to communicate and make sure the Team is in place.
- Team Members communicate with and support each other
- Team Members are flexible and open to constructive criticism.
- Clear Communication moves in many directions:
 - Between the Team leader and Team Members
 - Between the Team leader and the Director
 - Amongst team members
 - Between Team Members and Parents, Students themselves
 - OASIS support staff (music team, drama team, other teachers)

ORIENTATION

- Have your Team gather before the start of the Year to trade tips from experienced leaders.
- Go over the policies, procedures, expectations and discipline to make sure all Team Members are on the same page.

UTILIZE STUDENT WORKERS

- Give real responsibilities to student workers. Train them to teach & lead discussions.
- Make sure that the Student Workers have a task and feel utilized.

PROMOTE A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

- Consider the relationships with children, parents, and first-time guests. Be hospitable and engaging with parents. Be nice and quickly involve the student in a craft or activity, as well as introducing them to others.
- Promote a caring environment that fosters parents' ability to comfortably have their children in the care of the Oasis workers so that they can enjoy CT.