

Kids Min Zoom March 3, 2021

From the Jamboard

- What Have We Learned
 - Patience -
 - Adjust expectations as we assess needs (sort of another version of being flexible)
 - I am capable of learning so much new stuff (web design, live streaming, etc.)
 - I get 100% attendance with virtual sunday school and am fearful for in person to return
 - Families are hungry for faith materials
 - That i've been at this for a long time but I am still willing and capable of learning new things
 - Not all families are ready
 - That the church I serve is really patient and loving
 - There is never a bad time to start something
 - It's important to have a team of parents to run ideas by and get ideas from
 - I can be super creative when my energy goes toward teaching/virtual content instead of mostly coordinating volunteers
 - To be flexible
 - Relationship with families is the most important
 - That whiplash is painful
 - When we meet and how we meet is not important; loving God and love people is
 - All the strengths and weaknesses of our staff team, board, church culture are totally exposed. Hard to "fix" anything during a pandemic but at least now we know.
 - To reimagine
 - There is never a bad time to start something
 - Disappointment happens, despite our efforts. Support through the disappointment and allow those to see you by their side
 - Take time to notice just how busy we are and sort out what's important and what is not.
 - Don't be afraid to try new things
 - When everyone is overwhelmed sometimes doing nothing is ok too
 - It's harder to stop working when you are working from home
 - Hybrid ministry is hard
- What Are the Questions
 - How to help volunteers transition back
 - In a room full of elementary kids, how strict do we need to be with distance and germs and masks?
 - How are we going to navigate the disappointment that will come when we move to in-person and those who have been participating don't come?
 - How do we encourage parents that it is safe to come back?

- What to do if we can't include everyone safely (it might not be up to me to be in-person or not, so where do I go from there)?
- I don't have any technology in my classrooms. Do I need to be preparing to put something in every classroom?
- When and how? Please just give me answers so I don't have to make the decision. Ha!
- What opportunities are hidden in the challenges of physically distanced in person kids min?
- How do I keep this amazing energy from parents about faith at home?
- How do I curb my own enthusiasm about returning and keep my pace healthy?
- In Person Kids Min Questions
 - What do classrooms and spaces need to look like? We have strict seating requirements for the worship space
 - What will spacing look like? Will we need to reconfigure for social distancing?
 - Do we focus more on "time together" instead of the old "model"
 - Do we limit the number of attendees? How can we ensure limits without exclusion?
 - How do we navigate the grief of the past year? (Returning to in person will bring up some feelings)
 - Where are my volunteers going to come from? Older folks are still wary even with the vaccine and parents are tired and just want to not be in charge.
 - What if we don't have enough volunteers for the numbers of kids that are willing to attend?
 - All of the options are exhausting. Trying to picture something that isn't just a more awkward version of what we were doing before and not requiring leader to give up soul to build that people may not even attend is discouraging.
 - How to take time to recreate a new adaptive ministry
 - What does a 2021 sunday school classroom look like? Do we over hype with games? Try to get down to "this is how we do it?"
 - How will I structure a "hybrid model" of kidmin to serve both the in-person kids/families and the "we're not ready yet" kids/families.
- To prepare people for coming back in person:
 - COR - video together to show what church was going to look like when in-person resumed
 - Walk through the space in a safe way so they can see the changes - record and post on website, share in email, social media, etc.
 - "Social story"
- In Person Kids Min Best Practices
 - Pay attention to what your school district is doing
 - As much outdoors as possible
 - Individual busy bags to use while sitting with family in worship
 - Grace Space - can we use? How to use?
 - Large space/one room VBS type of experiences
 - Honoring everyone's feelings and comfortability

- BYOJ (Bring your own Jesus) communion on the lawn
- Delay the start of children's worship until folks are comfortable with the "new" way to worship. Also, I'm getting input from parents and volunteers on their comfort level
- Smaller kids min - each child has their own box of supplies (crayons, markers, white board, white board markers & eraser, journal, pencil, scissors, glue)
- Cry Room - do we need to limit the number of families that can go in there?

Resources

- Thoughts on Reopening your Congregation to Children -
<http://northga-email.brtaapp.com/files/fileslibrary/connectionalministries/thoughts+on+reopening+your+congregation+to+children.pdf>
- CDC Guidance on Childcare -
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html?fbclid=IwAR1LtyQI77F5X4Cm2W5ThQJ1UkgMwXpmVShZ335IxDjWBdX8WMvoWddhMk>
- CDC Schools and Childcare -
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>
- Christine Hides -
https://christinevhides.com/2020/11/15/pivoting-again-4-decisions-i-am-glad-we-made/?fbclid=IwAR3rZkN5IhZVSIDU4_fswt9mcG9UJm78-DK7M_Q4m99Yvxerfrf1SNli6s
- Re-Entry Roadmap (this resource from David C. Cooke is helpful)
<https://ministryspark.com/resources/covid-19-church-re-entry-roadmap/> (or email me for the pdf)