

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](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)