

6

Taking care of your Garden of Children's Ministry



a. Sun in your garden: Transmit vision to your team!

If someone has not left your church recently, your vision is probably too broad. Imagine a radio station that played ALL kinds of music, they would not make anyone happy! If your target audience is “the world” and your mission is “to glorify God” then you need to get more focused. Who are you really trying to reach with your children’s programs? Concentrate on one thing and do it well.



b. Water your garden: Encourage your teachers!

Teachers often feel overlooked, ignored and not appreciated. One fabulous way of encouraging them is to give them recognition. This could be a public announcement from the pulpit of their hard work, an announcement on Facebook, on your website, or at your next children’s ministry meeting. Start a “volunteer of the month” program where you recognize a different teacher each month for their outstanding service. Buy t-shirts or keychains with your logo printed on them as prizes for years served.



c. Weed your garden: Manage the conflict!

No matter how upset others get, you need to stay calm and professional. No one can make you mad, even though this takes practice for you to not lose your temper. “Thank you so much for bringing that to me. I am going to meet with that teacher.” You must investigate and find the truth. These complaints often feel like a personal attack, because your ministry is your baby, and you think someone is attacking you. But what if they are right? You must listen to what they are saying. Give up on whose fault it is and put the child first, looking for suggestions, ideas and compromises.

