

iLIGHT

EUD CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES BULLETIN

May 2021

N° 5 · VOLUME 6

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| It's Time | 1 |
| Prayer Activities | 1 |
| Sharing Values with Children | 2 |
| Talking with God | 2 |
| Kids & ADRA | 3 |
| Adventist Possibility Ministries | 4 |
| Ellen White on Children | 4 |
| Teens Devotional | 5 |
| Questions & Answers | 5 |
| Quick Guide to Discipline | 6 |
| 360° Children's Life Issues | 6 |
| Inspirational Quotes | 7 |
| Worship Ideas for Kids | 7 |
| Kids & Science | 8 |
| Children's Declarations | 8 |
| Peer Helper's Pocketbook | 9 |
| Benevolent Education | 9 |
| Craft Ideas | 10 |
| Focus On... .. | 11 |
| Keep in Mind | 11 |
| ... In Discipleship | 12 |
| Recommended Resources | 12 |



Photo by Ross Findon on Unsplash

It's Time ...

Prayer Activities

Clearing out Your Heart

Find some old scrap paper and write down the things from last year (or month or week) that are still bothering you. Then pray, giving all your problems and hurts to God. Ask Him to forgive you for the wrong things you still feel bad about. Then wad up the scrap paper and throw it in the garbage, knowing that God has taken care of it all. Psalm 103:11, 12.

God can heal your broken heart, but you must give Him all the pieces!

from: "My Quiet Time with Jesus. Prayer Calendar & Journal".
Copyright © 2014 by CHM Department, GC, USA

Time to change... Time to pass it on... Time to look forward...

Life is in its own essence connected to changes.. we don't think about that but every new day request us to handle (consciously or not) several changes.. and every change brings and needs adaptation and adjustments...

These little changes are not so evident and we don't even think on them on a regular basis...

Then, bigger or important changes come up too, draw our attention and require energies and time to adapt and for being able to get back to some kind of "normality"... But, every time, we know that this is part of our life and somehow we'll be able to deal with it and figure out what is the next step to be done. As a matter of fact, changes in life are common.

Change is inevitable. Major life changes literally shake up our world and compel us to interact with life in new ways. To grow we need to change our life systems to allow new levels of acting and feeling.

Each person experiences some critical changes in life that generally can be particularly stressful periods. When we think

of change having an impact on mental health, we typically think of negative impact and about the stress caused by loss -- the death of a loved one, the end of a relationship, and other endings hold a finality that can be difficult to accept.

On the other hand, things change for the better. Positive change can create stress as well, even when it's something we've looked forward to since long time. Regardless of what type of change is taking place in our life -- positive, negative, or something in between -- we have the capacity to apply strategies to cope with the stress of those life changes and come out the other end a stronger version of ourselves.

It's time to change... Recently, the Inter-European Division went through quite a number of changes issued from the Nominating Committee resolutions. Several department directors have been replaced by new ones. Children's Ministries was involved in this change. As I wrote above, changes are needed despite of the fact that they bring several challenges and some pain. There are reasons that may look questionable but ultimately, considering the big picture, changes bring opportunities for all the parts involved. ▶

SHARING VALUES WITH CHILDREN



Photo by David Beale on Unsplash

DEVOTION

David recognized the importance of standing before the presence of God continually and he affirms it by saying "one day spent in your temple is better than a thousand anywhere else". And for you, is it important to be in the presence of God? Because let me tell you that one day it will be. And this is what made David so excited! And when he realized that by his own decision, he had turned away from his Lord, he prayed to heaven to be purified. With a repentant and humble heart, David submitted himself to divine instruction. Devotion to God is a lifestyle that involves your time alone with Him, your social interactions, your behavior in the church, your obedience, the way you deal with problems, your daily attitudes, and even what you do in secret. David wanted to have a heart like God's. He didn't want to be without the joy of salvation. Do you think you can have such a fascinating relationship with Jesus? He is waiting for you with open arms. He wants to listen to your songs and join you every morning. He wants to give you peace before you go to sleep. He wants to be your refuge when you feel alone. He wants to accompany you wherever you go. He wants to see you smile when you meet in His temple and, above all, He wants to welcome you to the home that is ready for you. Think about it and decide soon.

Instead, be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what He requires of you, and He will provide you will all these other things (Matthew 6:3).

From: *The Talking Backpack 2 Learning Values with Estela & Mateo*. Developed by CHM of the Inter-American Division.

By this change of leadership in Children's Ministries, I'm aware that I'm leaving behind important pieces of life that have been put together during many years. This doesn't mean that I'll cease caring for this Ministry that I consider to be the most impacting one for children's spiritual growth and future church leadership. By being involved in such ministry, one gets impacted forever.

I recall myself as a child, mimicking my mother teaching Sabbath School to my friends and me, or me taking care of a children Sabbath School class in my teen age. All along the years, I built up the awareness of the importance and the impact spiritual life has in children's development. I did my best to inspire, support and encourage parents, teachers, church members and leaders in their relationship and responsibility towards children.

It's time to pass it on... Being aware of the task still to be accomplished, I'm confident that it will be carried out with the same passion by Rainer Wanitschek, my successor, and by every other person called to be part of the Ministry in the years to come. In fact, every achievement or success in this journey is the result of a teamwork approach that gathered people having the same dreams and vision. I would like to acknowledge the amazing job made by each and every EUD Children's Ministries colleagues and friends I had the privilege to work with all along the past 20 years. I'll definitely miss you! I'm grateful also to all CHM Division leaders and colleagues from around the world for the good spirit, companionship and ideas we shared. A special appreciation goes to Linda Koh, General Conference CHM director, for having fostered such a friendly

and powerful team, and been a mentor and a wise leader for all of us.

Last but not least, I would like also to share my deepest gratitude and emphasize the competent work of a very special person that, since many years, worked and shared the same vision with me, with steadiness, professional skills and reliability. Regina Fleischmann, you have been a great mate and assistant all along this journey and I praise God for the opportunity we had to walk together and support each other in this Ministry.

It's time to look forward... Marianne Williamson wrote: *"Change is in the air, as old patterns fall away and new energies are emerging. Consciously release what needs to be released, and welcome with a full embrace the newness you've prayed for and so richly deserve."*

My greatest thankfulness goes to God for having provided so many special adventures and experiences with Him. For His care and protection, for me and my beloved ones, as I was traveling around EUD countries and around the world. For having put on my way amazing and remarkable people and children. I'm anticipating what He is preparing for me in the future. I pray and hope that He will allow me to continue being part of this special journey, according His plans. He is a surprising and awesome God. My deepest desire remains to accompany children to learn always more about Jesus, their Best Friend, longing to meet Him the day He will return. ♦

Elsa Cozzi

Inter-European Division
former Children's Ministries
Director



©Shutterstock.com

Talking with

GOD

It will pass

Count to five using your fingers. Whenever you are faced with a problem, use your fingers again to repeat five times: "It will pass."

It's not easy to trust in other people when the situation is bad. Even still, there is Someone, in whom you can always

trust: God. He is able to transform bad situations in something good. This can happen immediately. It can take a bit of time for you to realize that a complicated situation will become important for you to learn a lesson from it and grow. Always trust in God. You will never regret this choice.

**God is indeed my salvation; I will trust and won't be afraid.
Isaiah 12:2, CEB)**

From: Ferreira de Oliveira, Sueli: *Talking with God*. Safeliz, Madrid, Spain, 2015

Helping Around the World

Italy

Palermo - Normality in the time of masks and disinfectants

Lidia, one of the youngest, asked us when we would return to normality. The question didn't surprise me. We all wonder. A full year after the first lockdown, normality seems far away. Our after-school activities, which we have called "I'm good too", have always had a multiple purpose. On the one hand, of course, we help the children with their homework and, especially with the older children, with their personal studies; on the other hand, we try to strengthen their self-esteem, mutual support, acceptance of others, integration and sense of community.

Myself, the other tutors, the coordinator and even some of the parents who are more present, have asked ourselves how masks, social distancing, sanitising gel, etc., would influence the achievement of the objectives we have set ourselves. We are all volunteers, each of us has a family, a life that demands us, but we all agreed that now was not the time to give up, because they, our children, needed us more than ever. Between distance learning, integrated teaching, forced segregation... the children, and not only them, can get lost.



Some of us were able to be present, others were there through a screen; together we faced these months without losing heart, showing the children resilience and optimism. The creation of a computer room this year has allowed us to follow the children at home, to recruit new tutors and to collaborate again with those who were already there but whose lives have taken them far away. Thanks to our 10 new computer workstations we have supported the children in adapting to the new demands of the A.D.D., without neglecting the sharing of strategies and resources that the web offers for study, while also paying great attention to warning the children of the risks of the web, something that parents are often unable to do.

We always try to give the children answers to their needs, not only educational ones. To Konnor and Peter, who have big problems at home, we have given spaces of serenity and light-heartedness; to Abraham, who has been bullied at school and on social networks, we have offered respect, attention and an inclusive environment; to Charles, who often has too many lessons to study because of his problems with the Italian language, we have given understanding and encouragement; to Rhenata, Mary and Grace, who arrived in Italy at the time of the pandemic and who could not find a place at school because of the lack of space due to the obligation to stay apart, we offered a welcome, an initial literacy programme and assistance in finding a school...

To little Lidia's question on the return to normality, I replied, after a moment of reflection, that I did not know when we would be able to remove the masks, return to sit next to each other and share a snack, but that we were there for them, that we love them, that we will continue to follow them and support them because because this is our normality.



Daniele Cavallo
ADRA Italy
Representative Palermo

Anorexia

There has been a 20% increase in admissions for eating disorders in many hospitals in Spain and perhaps in the rest of the world.

The preventive framework of the coronavirus has overturned the lives of minors who have had to change their schedules and habits.

The situation has become a breeding ground for aggravating or increasing cases of eating disorders, such as anorexia, bulimia or obesity among the youngest.

Some preventive measures taken during the pandemic, such as prolonged confinement, social isolation or school closures, may have affected the physical and mental well-being of children and adolescents, or precipitated and aggravated some previous mental problems. With respect to Eating Behavior Disorders (EBD), several factors have influenced their onset or aggravation, such as the modification of daily life activities or routines, in terms of food, physical exercise, sleep schedules or extracurricular activities.

The health care collapse created by the pandemic has hindered the diagnosis and treatment of children and young people with eating disorders, who have been negatively influenced by the Covid-19 preventive framework due to issues such as "social restrictions, the increase and misuse of social networks, and greater uncertainty and

fear. At the same time, social support among peers and contact among family members has been reduced. All this has led to a hypervigilance of physical fitness in vulnerable young people or those at risk for these disorders and a possible trigger for the onset of abnormal eating behaviors."

The development of diseases such as anorexia nervosa, bulimia or obesity in children and young people is due to genetic predisposition and the influence of external factors, such as lifestyle or family upbringing. If to this, we add the pandemic and the measures for its containment, there are several factors that can cause the triggering of eating disorders in the child or young person, such as those mentioned by a psychologist and psychiatrist from Spain, Monstserrat Graell.

The media and social networks have placed a lot of emphasis during the pandemic on the need to take care of one's diet and exercise to stay in shape. "This continuous bombardment has resulted in some children and adolescents developing this disorder more quickly and with greater severity. The first signs we can identify as parents that our child may be close to having an eating disorder are obsession with food and exercise, seeking isolation more than usual, and having many mood swings and very abrupt mood swings."

The way to help prevent children and young people from developing an eating disorder is, avoid normalizing a diet, unless it is necessary and is done by medical prescription, encourage communication with our children to share how we all feel about the pandemic situation we are living. This implies knowing how to listen and respect, even if they tell us things we do not like. It is also advisable to be flexible with our children and eat together, trying to make it a time to share with the family the day to day.

Once the child or young person has a diagnosis related to an eating disorder, "it is advisable not to abandon the treatments that have begun and keep in mind that it is not a situation in which quick results are obtained, since in the recovery process there will be relapses, but it is not a return to the disorder, since, if there is therapy, there is a lot of work done and a long way to go".

Anorexia Nerviosa (2021), Instituto Nacional de Gestión Sanitaria del Gobierno de España. Taken from : <https://ingesa.sanidad.gob.es/ciudadanos/suSalud/jovenes/anorexia/home.htm>



Taida L. Rivero Herrera
Spanish Union
Director of Deaf Ministries

In this age of wickedness every Christian must stand firm in condemnation of the evil, Satanic actions of wayward children. Evil youth should not be treated as kind and obedient, but as disturbers of the peace and corrupters of their companions.

Child Guidance, p. 179



What's the Big Idea?

Murray Spangler was sick and tired of sneezing. As a janitor in a Canton, Ohio, department store, Murray's responsibilities included sweeping the establishment's long wooden aisles. The dust kicked up in the process was no treat for Murray's sensitive schnoz.

Placing his creativity in high gear, the stuffed-up broom pusher rigged up a strange-looking contraption using a fan and pillowcase. Back at the store, the newfangled grit grabber worked pretty well; the vacuum arrangement sucked the dirt from the floor and went into the pillowcase instead of Murray's nostrils!

By now the hopeful janitor had visions of marketing his invention. Finding an investor took some time, but eventually a man by the last name of Hoover bought into his idea, and Murray's vacuum cleaner became a great seller.

From the naming of animals in Eden to the invention of Jet Skis to high-tech

space cameras, creativity has a rich history. The ability to take an idea and give birth, as it were, to an invention or other problem-solving or life-enriching entity is the gift of a Creator-God. It may be that your "weird" idea is something He needs you to give to others. Perhaps it will bring laughter to people's lives, maybe even save those same individuals' lives.

Whether it's art, mechanics, science, gymnastics, or something else, being creative with your talents can make the experience even more rewarding. That's especially true if you're using your gift of creativity to God's glory.

Power Burst
 "God saw all that He had made, and it was very good."
 Genesis 1:31



Photo by Gil Ribeiro on Unsplash

From: Fishell, Randy: *Supercharged! Fast-moving, eye-popping, heart-changing devotional stories.* Review and Herald Publishing Ass, Hagerstown, MD, USA, 2000

TOUGH QUESTIONS & POSSIBLE ANSWERS



Why doesn't God stop bad stuff from happening to us?

Preschooler

When hard things happen in your preschooler's life, hold him/her close. Remind them God loves them and is with them—just as you're with them. Let your child know that even though God can do anything, sometimes he lets people make choices, and those can hurt other people.

Elementary Age

Could God stop bad things from happening? Yes. Does he? Not always. Explain to your child that bad things happen because people do bad things—sin has entered the picture. If God removed our freedom to do things that lead to painful consequences, we'd be no more than robots, programmed to obey God. God wants a loving relationship with us—and that requires he give us choic-

es. It also means that other people have choices, so they have the opportunity to choose to sin, which often hurts us.

Preteen

Share that we all have choices, and we don't always make the right ones. Your preteen can share some examples he or she has seen of just that. Point out that God doesn't dictate our choices because he wants us to choose to love and obey him. The downside: The consequences of our choices—and choices made by others—often lead to pain.

Related Scriptures

Joshua 24:15 and Matthew 22:28 speak to our making good choices, and John 16:33 is a reminder that Jesus is ultimately in control.

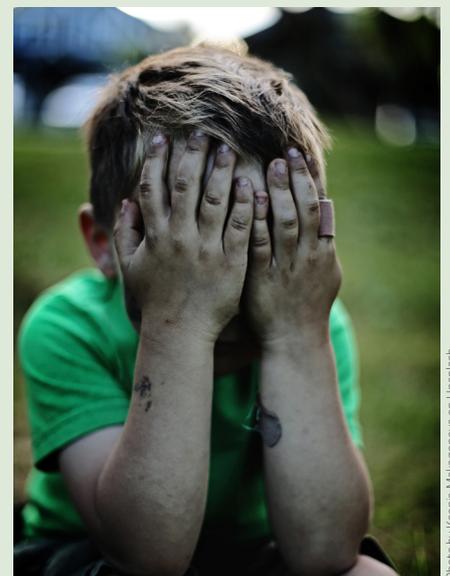


Photo by Ksenia Makagonova on Unsplash

From: *Trust Us... They'll Ask. Answers to your kids' toughest and most awkward questions.* Group Publishing, Inc., Loveland, Colorado, USA, 2011

Good Ideas for Bad Behavior: Bullying

Question: I'm having problems with a boy who's a bully. What's the best way to handle this situation?

Answer: Most bullies operate under the assumption that behavior is wrong only if it results in punishment. To counter this, establish a set of clear, firm rules that define behavior expectations, and then point out exactly where the bully has crossed the line and why his behavior isn't tolerable. Be especially vigilant during active games where lots of noise and movement can obscure deliberate acts of aggression. Your correction must be reasonable, appropriate, and purposeful.

Bullying is a deep-rooted problem that affects everyone—not

just the kids getting picked on. You need a zero-tolerance policy that communicates bullying will not be accepted—this includes all forms of verbal harassment, such as gossip, put-downs, and ridicule, as well as physical aggression.

What you should do

- Confront bullying head-on.
- Demonstrate loving concern for the aggressor and the victim.
- Let kids know they need to get help from an adult if they're being bullied.
- Use role-play to develop children's ability to be empathetic—and assertive.
- Encourage bystanders to take a stand for the victim.

What you should not do

- Don't use excessive correction; it ingrains the idea that a position of power gives a person the right to be cruel or domineering.
- Don't hesitate to involve a child's parents if a problem persists.
- Don't tell children to ignore a bully.

Genius Tactic

After you clearly define bullying, help kids remember these three principles:

1. We will not bully others.
2. We will help kids who are bullied.
3. We will include kids who might be left out.

From: *The Quick Guide to Discipline for Children's Ministry, 101 Good Ideas for Bad Behavior*. Group Publishing, Loveland, Colorado, USA, 2009

360° CHILDREN'S LIFE ISSUES

Cyberbullying is a real problem in today's society.

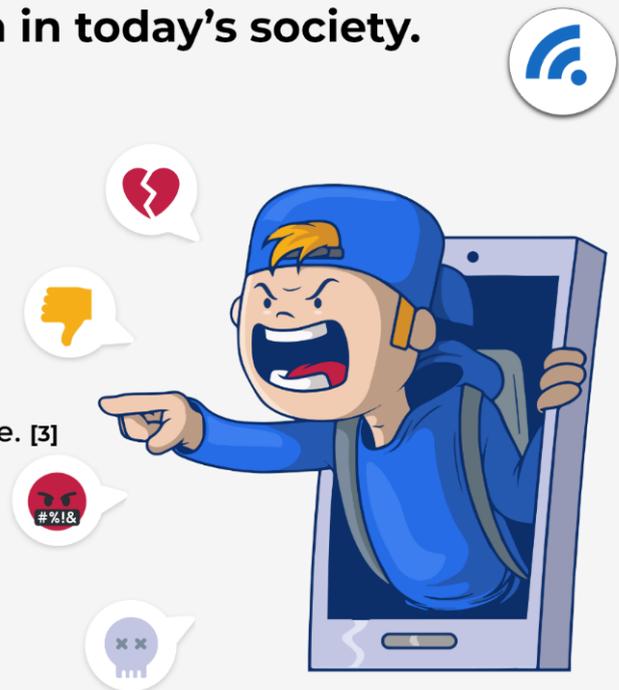
- Overall, **36.5 percent** of people feel they have been cyberbullied in their lifetime, and **17.4 percent** have reported it has happened at some point in the last 30 days. [1]

- **60 percent** of teenagers have experienced some sort of cyberbullying. [2]

- **70 percent** of teenagers have reported someone spreading rumors about them online. [3]

- **87 percent** of young people have seen cyberbullying occurring online. [4]

- **95 percent** of teenagers are connected to the internet and **85 percent** of them are using social media. [5]



From: <https://www.broadbandsearch.net/blog/cyber-bullying-statistics>



https://www.goodreads.com/photo/author/3503/Maya_Angelou

"I've learned that people will forget what you've said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

—Maya Angelou

From: <https://onlinesense.org/bullying-quotes/>

QUICK AND EASY WORSHIP IDEAS FOR KIDS

Being Still With God

Bible Connection

"Be still and know that I cam God" (Psalm 46:10, NIV). When we stop and sit quietly for a while, God can have our full attention.

Things you need:

- A quiet corner or room with a soft rug and comfy pillows and chairs
- Soft, instrumental worship music and a CD player
- Safe candles, battery operated lanterns, or Christmas lights
- Anything that will transform your room into a tranquil place

Worship activities

1. Our lives are often very busy and noisy. It can be hard to find the time and space to be quiet and still for a while. But spending time being quiet with God, listening to His love and hopes for us, and thinking inspiring thoughts can be both comforting and energizing.
2. Make your peaceful space as inviting and lovely as possible.
3. Read the Bible verse and talk for a few moments about what it means to be still with God and to imagine He is right there in the room. Explain that you will do this just for a few moments, because being quiet and still can feel quite strange when you're not used to it.
4. Pray that God will make Himself known to each of you in the stillness.
5. Ask everyone to think about how much God loves them or to imagine

that He is giving them a big hug or that they are sitting on His lap. Imagine what He most wants to say to each of you today.

6. Print out the children's version of "The Father's Love Letter" and give it to one of your children to read during the stillness (<https://www.fathersloveletter.com/kids-111.html>)
7. After you have been quiet for a while, ask your children how it felt to be still and experience God. What did they think about? What did they learn about God or themselves? What new ideas did they have about God's love for them?

Our lives can be incredibly busy. Take time to be quiet and to feel how refreshing it is to be still, to listen to God, to pray, and to think about His love.

Other ideas:

Find an outdoor place to be quiet together: in a forest, by a lake, in a quiet corner of the park, in your yard, etc.

Try having five to ten minutes of quiet time in your family as often as you can. Read one verse or a short Bible story, to focus your thoughts on God, before having some quiet time together.



Photo by Jamie Davies on Unsplash

Prayer

Thank God for what each of you experienced in the stillness. Thank Him for the time and space to calm down and listen to Him. Thank Him for His loving care for each one of you. Or pray silent prayers for a short time, followed by a family hug.

"Meet a Tree" game

This game is for groups of at least two. Pair off. Blindfold your partner and lead him or her through the forest to any tree that attracts you. (How far will depend on your partner's age and ability to orientate himself or herself. For all but very young children, a distance of 20-30 meters usually isn't too far.)

Help the "blind" child to explore his or her tree and to feel its uniqueness. I find that specific suggestions are best. For example, if you tell children to "Feel the tree," they won't respond with as much interest as if you say, "Rub your cheek on the bark." Instead of, "Explore your tree," be specific: "Is this tree alive? ... Can you put your arms around it? ... Is the tree older than you are? ... Can you find plants growing on it? ... Animal signs? ... Lichens?"

When your partner is finished exploring, lead him or her back to where you began, but take an indirect route. Now, remove the blindfold and let the child try to find the tree with his or her eyes open. Suddenly, as the child searches for his or her tree, what was a forest becomes a collection of very individual trees.

A tree can be an unforgettable experience in a child's life. Many times children have come back to me a year after we played **Meet a Tree**, and have literally dragged me out to the forest to say, "See! Here's my tree!"



Reference for this game:

- **Direct Experience**
- **Empathy, olfactory and tactile awareness**
- **Time/place: Day/forest**
- **Participants: 2 or more**
- **Ages: 4 years and up**
- **Things you need: blindfolds**



Photo by Vitarina Poleznova on Unsplash

Note

Probably you expected to read another article from Noemi Duran here.

To our great dismay we heard last month that Noemi met with a severe accident. Though she is doing well according the circumstances, the recovery process will require some time, and we are not sure when we will have the privilege to have her contributions again.

We invite you to pray for her and her family, especially for patience in the process of getting well.

In the meantime we will have some other texts that can help you to awaken children's interest in nature and to meet God through His creation.

From: Cornell, J.: *Sharing Nature with Children*. DAWN Publications, Nevada City, CA, USA, 1998

Children's Declarations



Photo by Arwan Sutarso on Unsplash

VIOLET (OR THE STRUGGLE WITH CLOTHES)

Violet: (Crying hysterically)

Mom: Violet, what's wrong? Why are you so upset?

Violet: Because I can't get this shirt to work!

Mom: Violet, honey... You can't get this shirt to work because they are pants...

From: https://www.boredpanda.com/cute-funny-quotes-kids-little-hoots/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=organic



From the POCKETBOOK

for Peer Helpers

Covering the issues: Peer Pressure

Much of the social pressure teens receive comes from people who attend school with them. Peer pressure causes teens to do things they do not want to do, but they will do them to be “one of the crowd,” to fit in, to feel liked and accepted. One of the most typical situations is when other teens pressure another into drinking or using other drugs. Another common peer pressure problem is teens being pressured into having sex.

The unfortunate things about peer pressure is that it is often the beginning of a cycle, not

just a one-time incident. Once teens have been pressured into doing something they do not feel right about, it becomes less difficult the following time to repeat the behavior. Soon they will be the ones pressuring a peer. This is not true of all peer pressure situations, but it is extremely common.

How to assist:

- Let the helpee know that he or she is special. It is important to reinforce the unique and likable qualities the helpee has.

- Work with the helpee on clarifying his or her values. This will aid the helpee in drawing boundaries between what others value and what he or she truly wants for himself or herself.
- Support the helpee in building his or her self-esteem. Each person must gain self-esteem to have a better sense of doing what he or she wants, instead of trying to please others in order to feel good about himself or herself.

From: Sturkie, J. & Gibson, V.: *The Peer Helper's Pocketbook*. Resource Publications Inc., San Jose, CA, USA, 1992

BENEVOLENT EDUCATION

The Most Critical Years for a Child's Spiritual Growth?

A child's most formative years are their youngest — from birth to age five.

About 90 percent of a child's brain develops in that time, according to studies. And 85 percent of a child's intellect, personality and social skills are developed by age five.

This begs the question, *Is this also true with spiritual education? Are the preschool years the most critical for a child's relationship with God?*

Personally, I think that most of us sell preschoolers short.

When I first started teaching kids, I was helping my youth pastor plant a new church.

I don't recommend this, but I had all of the kids ages 3-12 in one room. (Admittedly, it was challenging finding messages that worked for that wide of an age span.)

One Sunday, we had a family visit with a three-year-old and an eight-year-old.

I was teaching on the Sword of the Spirit. I used a real machete for the Sword of the Spirit and some apples to represent the works of the enemy, like fear.

I quoted scriptures like “God has not given me a spirit of fear,” as I threw apples in the air and sliced them with the machete.

I was a little concerned at what Brooke, the three-year-old thought of my sermon.

I was relieved to see her family return the following week.

When Brooke's parents dropped her off, they told me they came back to our church because Brooke said, “Mom, Dad, I want to

go to the apple-slicing church.”

I have no way to measure how much Brooke understood about my sermon, but I am confident she understood more than I gave her credit for.

Here is a quote from an article by Mackenzie Ryan in the Statesman's Journal.

“The preschool years are a critical time for a child to build the foundation for literacy, which is really about the early relationship a child develops with a parent or caregiver.”

Research shows that these relationships — the frequency a parent reads to a child, the number of words a parent speaks to a child — can affect that student's academic achievement years later.

A landmark 1995 study showed that how fast a child's vocabulary grows is greatly influenced by how often their parents talk to them.”

I don't think it's a stretch to say that a child's spiritual growth is greatly influenced by how often God talks to them.

As teachers, our job is not to be a substitute parent, but to create environments where God can speak to kids.

Here are four important steps to facilitate this goal.

1. See your kids beyond where they are at.

When God looks at a three-year-old, He doesn't just see a three-year-old. He sees their whole life in a split second. The Bible says that Hannah sent young Samuel to Bible School when he was weaned. It

doesn't say how old Samuel was, but I am guessing he was around three. I'm sure her neighbors thought she was crazy, but Hannah saw something in Samuel that others didn't see. What you believe about the kids in your class makes all the difference in the world.

2. **Preach the Bible and trust God to speak to His kids.** Many times it seems like preschoolers are not getting it. Don't let that sway you. Do it by faith. Jesus is with you in your classroom and He is speaking to His kids.
3. **Worship is super important.** Jesus likes it when little kids worship Him. How do I know? He said so. “Out of the mouth of babies and toddlers comes perfect praise.” Preschoolers may not have large vocabularies. They may not worship for a long time, but that does not mean it's not important. My granddaughter is 17 months old. She can melt my heart with two words, “Hi, Papa.”
4. **Use a Good Curriculum.** Teaching the deep things of God to preschool kids can be challenging. Most curricula sell the kids short and barely hit the surface. It's not good enough to just tell Bible stories. We need to take the Bible and make it relevant to kids' lives today. Give your volunteers the resources they need to create environments where God can speak to kids.



CRAFT IDEAS



Easy-to-do crafts with & for kids

Anti-Bullying Toothpaste Activity

Things you need

- Tube of toothpaste
- Toothpicks
- Paper plate

When it comes to anti-bullying activities, this is one of my favorites. It's so easy to recreate – all you need is a tube of toothpaste, toothpicks, and a paper plate – but the lesson it teaches is very powerful. Have the kids in your class squeeze all of the toothpaste out of a tube of toothpaste onto a plate, and when they are done, ask them to put the toothpaste back into the tube using toothpicks. It won't be long until they realize the task is impossible, at which time you can engage them in a discussion about bullying. Ask each child to provide an example of a time when someone said something mean to them and write the hurtful words they share on the blackboard. Once everyone has had a turn, ask the students to imagine the toothpaste represents all of the words you've just written down, and help them understand that, just like you cannot put toothpaste back into a tube, you cannot remove the pain caused by saying hurtful things to others.



Sergio Boscarino from Busseto, Italy, CC BY 2.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>, via Wikimedia Commons

From: <https://www.merakilane.com/22-tips-and-anti-bullying-activities-to-teach-kids-kindness/>

Kindness Rocks



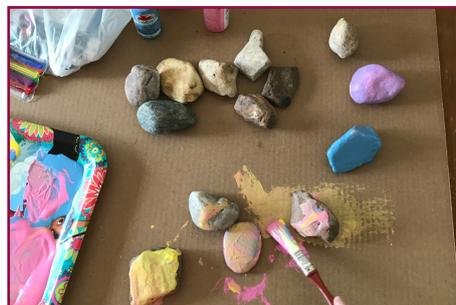
Things you need

- Palm-sized, smooth rocks
- Acrylic paint and thin brushes
- Paint pens or permanent marker (optional)
- Clear outdoor sealant spray



Procedure

1. Gather your rocks. Look for ones with a smooth side that fit in the palm of your hand. About 7.5 cm is the best size.
2. Paint the rocks whatever colors you'd like to provide a background for your artwork. Once dry, flip and paint the other side.
3. Label the underside of the rocks with #TheKindnessRocksProject with either a paint pen or sharpie marker. This allows those who find them to look up the hashtag on Facebook or Twitter.
4. Now is the fun part! You get to decorate your rocks. Older children can write their own messages with paint pens or permanent markers. Younger children can paint designs for you to write a positive message on top of.
5. Once the paint is dry, spray the rocks with a clear outdoor sealant spray to protect them from the elements until they are found by others.
6. Then go for a walk in a few parks, downtown, or anywhere else around your community that gets a large amount of foot traffic. Hide your Kindness Rocks where they can be easily found by passersby.



From: <https://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2017/08/creating-kindness-rocks-kids.html>



FOCUS ON...



Changes...

Change in EUD CHM leadership



After having served for more than 20 years as director of Children's Ministries in the Inter-European territories, Elsa Cupertino Cozzi leaves this department and Rainer Wanitschek is called to take it over. Rainer will also be responsible of Family and Adventist Possibility Ministries.

We wish Rainer God's guidance and inspiration to face the new challenges and projects he will have to develop during the next term, up to 2025. May God continue spreading His Spirit and many blessings over all those that will spent time, energies and funds for children's spiritual needs.



Other changes

Changes have occurred also in other divisions and territories.

We want to thank Caroline Chola, Lisa Clouzet, Dinorah Rivera, Clair Sanchez, and Litiana Turner, and wish them God's blessings and guidance as they move on to the next step of their lives. As the new persons take over, we would like to welcome them to the world team for CHM, and be assured that your work is one of the most important tasks there can be for the children and the church. Rest assured that God will bless you in your efforts.

Keep in Mind

EVENTS FROM THE INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

2021



June 19

Refugee Sabbath

Worship ideas for families on:

<https://cloud.eud.adventist.org/index.php/s/D65HsR65nDeew4M>

June 19

ADRA Art Contest Award Ceremony

Online, for details see:

<https://adra.eu/get-involved/world-refugees-sabbath/>

July 24

Children's Sabbath

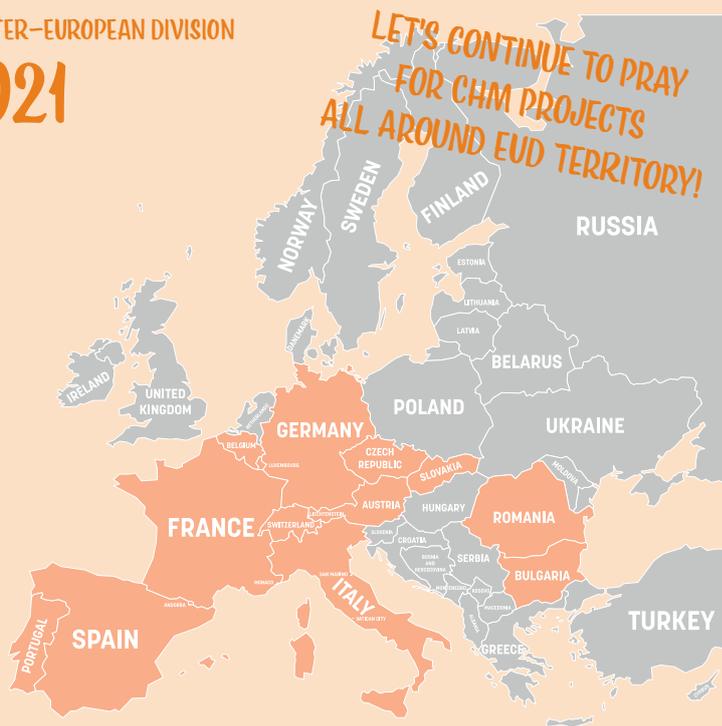
Material will be available

August 28

EndItNow Emphasis Day

Material will be available

DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS ALL PLANNED EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELED OR POSTPONED. WE OBSERVE THE DEVELOPMENT AND INFORM ABOUT EVENTS AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT.





A Walk Across the Room

It's hard to be the only one. It's hard to raise your hand when no one else seems to have a question. It's hard to walk across the room to care for someone when no one else is moving. It's tough when you know God is talking directly to you, when life seems the same to everyone around you, and you can't shake the fact that God got to you.

When the Footprints leader asked the question, "Who is God calling you to share Jesus with this week?" no one said a word. Everyone looked at everybody else, except at the small group leader. Finally, at the back of the room, Shana shyly raised her hand. I looked across the group to where she was sitting next to her mother. They sat alone.

"I want to share Jesus with my daddy!" Shana blurted out. "My daddy hates our church! He doesn't love Jesus or even want to talk about Him. When Jesus comes again, I want my daddy to go to Heaven with me!" Shana's words whistled through the air and slammed into our hearts. The group was quiet. Some mothers sitting alone with their children wiped their eyes. I wondered if they were crying out to God to bring their husbands to Jesus.

The leader asked the group, "Who will pray for Shana? Who will pray that God will help her share Jesus with her daddy?" No one moved a muscle. No one offered to pray for this shy girl. Then, across the group, José raised his hand "I'll pray for Shana!" And he did. "Dear God, Shana wants her daddy with her in Heaven someday soon. Her daddy doesn't love Jesus. Please help Shana know what to do to tell her daddy about You!"

"Who else believes God is calling you to share Jesus with someone?" The leader asked again. José raised his hand again. I noticed he also was sitting alone with his mother. "I want to share Jesus with my dad, too!" he said with conviction. "He doesn't care much for God or for church stuff, either. I don't know what to say to him, but I know I want him to have Jesus in his heart."

"Who will pray for José?" the leader asked the group. You'd think that everyone would have been raising their hands to pray for him, but there were many guests that night from many different churches. They had come to see what God was doing in the lives of these children and families. The adults in the group were a shy bunch, and again, no one seemed to want to do anything.

Out of the corner of the room I noticed a tall, lanky teen casually sprawled across a chair outside the group's circle. His name was Nigel. He had looked bored and disinterested all during the group's meeting. His eyes were scanning the whole group, back and forth, back and forth. He seemed to be desperately hoping that somebody, anybody would rescue the moment, but no one moved.

Nigel unfolded himself from his chair and slowly stood up. He looked toward José as if measuring off the distance. He looked with irritation at the crowd and casually sauntered over to where José was staring at him. "If no one else will pray, I'll pray for you to reach your dad. You know that when you were praying for Shana to share Jesus with her daddy, that's my dad, too!"

Nigel bowed his head. Passionately he prayed, "God, José doesn't know what to say to his dad. He doesn't know how to say it or when to say it. God, give José the right words and the right time. Help him reach his dad with Jesus!" Nigel melted back off the scene as quickly as he could, retreating to his chair outside the circle. I learned later that he was not too interested in the church. I hoped that God would surprise him with His Presence!

I live far away from Nigel's city on America's West Coast, but I was able to visit again over a year later. I had often wondered especially about what had happened with Shana. Had she ever risked her father's anger to tell him about Jesus? I had to know.

Shana had returned home that night from the small group with a determination to reach her unchurched daddy for Jesus. She prayed and prayed to figure out what to do. Some weeks before she and her mother had begun attending Footprints for Kids, her mother had joined a group just for parents and mentors. She had learned about worshiping Jesus in the home and had already started setting aside time each day with Shana to worship God. Shana thought this might be the perfect idea for her daddy.

"Daddy, Mommy and I read stories in the Bible about Jesus and pray together every day. We'd love it if you'd join us." "Naw!" her daddy snorted. "I'm never going to come to that!" He walked off angrily.

Shana asked her dad again the next day. Similar response. She asked again and again. She always got the same answer. Shana kept asking God to help her share Jesus with her daddy. She told her Father in Heaven that she wanted her daddy on earth to be with her forever.

One day, after Shana had asked what seemed like millions of times, her daddy simply said, "Sure, I'll come to your worship, but I'm just coming to watch. Don't think you're getting me to pray or read the Bible," he warned her.

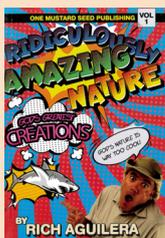
He came the next day, the next, and the next. He found himself actually enjoying the stories about One who loved him, died for him, and was building a place in heaven just for him. He opened his heart to know Jesus Christ, the One who loves him most!

It's hard to walk across the room when you're the only one. It's hard to pray in front of others when everyone else acts like it's a weird thing to do. And it's hard to talk with your daddy about Jesus when you know he hates Jesus, but people are worth the effort and the risk. When Jesus tugs on our hearts to do the hard thing, we do it because we love Him and we want our family and friends with us forever!

From: MacLafferty, D.: *Inside Out. Children and Families Trusting, Following, and Sharing Jesus.* College Press, Collegedale, TN, USA, 2015.

For more helpful resources to disciple your children, youth, and family, go to www.indiscipleship.org

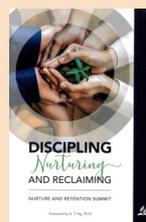
RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



RIDICULOUSLY AMAZING NATURE

Rich Aguilera

Want to know more about God? Check out His amazing artwork... nature! Each page of this book is packed full of incredible examples of some of the most amazing things we can find in God's nature.



DISCIPLING, NURTURING, AND RECLAIMING

Nurture and Retention Summit

Addressing low church member retention is long overdue. The primary purpose of this publication is to preserve and disseminate the content of the seminars and workshops offered during the 2019 Nurture and Retention Summit. It covers three important related areas: Discipling, Nurturing, and Reclaiming. The secondary, and probably most important, long-term goal is to keep the conversation running and to continue to share and develop best practices to be more effective and efficient in God's mission.



Producer: Elsa Cozzi
Editor: Regina Fleischmann

Contact: elsa.cozzi@eud.adventist.org | regina.fleischmann@eud.adventist.org