

## **Digital Ministry Workshop: 6-12 yr. old**

Child protection protocol is extremely important. Attached is the document from the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth. If you need more information, email or call Mary Hickin or Cindy Zemcik: [mhickin@eriercd.org](mailto:mhickin@eriercd.org), (814) 824-1222; [czemcik@eriercd.org](mailto:czemcik@eriercd.org), (814) 824-1195.

There are some difficulties presenting something to this age group. And there are certainly differences in kids age 6 and kids age 12. But here are some general tips to help you get them to engage and respond.

Your audience will be tired of online contact for classes and you know how hard it is for kids to sit still for too long. Keep your contact with them short if possible.

If planning a meeting more than 20 minutes long, include an activity to get them up and moving. For example, have a craft or a short video clip; keep your presentation varied to keep them involved, have them jump up and down five times every time you say a specific word, ask them to use the chat box if possible or unmute them and let them answer.

There are many websites with help for keeping kids engaged and doing a great lesson with them. Here are the links to the video(s) shown by Deacon Steve. Other links of some great websites are on the attached page.

[Jesus Washes His Disciples Feet](#)      [Yancy and Little Praise Party](#)

If you have a craft activity, plan ahead and have parents ready with the supplies. Send email to them or send a detailed list of supplies for each week when you do your schedule.

Be bright, welcoming, enthusiastic. Be expressive and use voice inflections.

Use props if you have them – puppets, masks, flash cards (you can make these).

Make a homemade easel for the book you are using, or for a Bible. The YouTube video link is on the attached page. There are dozens of pictures and tutorials for crafts.

Use rituals and routines. Use some elements in every online meeting with the kids.

Make sure your background is enticing but not distracting.

Wear something fun or bright.

Having kids sing along to a song video, not all online together.

Use a flipped classroom. Send home something for them to read or watch, or an activity to do and then talk about it when you have them online.

One idea at a time. The story of David and Goliath cannot be wrapped around the story of David wanting to build the Temple.

Slow down. Do not rush through your lesson or speak too fast. You can radiate energy without speed talking.

Simplify. Give short, clear, concise explanations and lessons.

Remember that this is a very visual activity/teaching time. The more you can engage their eyes, the more you will keep them interested.

Help parents set up a positive space and experience for the children. Here are a few tips for you and for them:

1. Create a learning space for your child: a special place to meet or do homework, set up a quiet, clutter-free area to help kids focus.
2. Make a schedule and stick to it. You should follow this rule as well – keep a class schedule and do it at the same day and time for each meeting.
3. Reduce distractions. Set up in an area with no video games, computer games, social media, TV, toys, pets. Make a list of the things that distract your child, then find ways to limit them during learning time.
4. Use a calendar and color-code it. Parents can have one for each child and you should send a calendar to them with your class info.

Have a back-up plan. Keep plan A, B and maybe even C on hand. If something is not working, you can move to another plan.

There are thousands of websites with tips and links to help you be an engaging teacher. Several suggestions/examples are included on the video link attachment.

Try out some of the tips, practice your session in front of a mirror, or video record yourself and play it back.