



## **Directions for Evaluating Your Ministry to Children**

- Step 1:** Ask staff and volunteers to individually complete the Children's Ministry Diagnostic Tool.
- Step 2:** Work together to tally results and list areas of strength and areas which need improvement.
- Step 3:** Create a plan for improvement. Create specific goals that are measurable, attainable, and relevant. Decide who is going to be responsible to each part of the plan. Set deadlines, and get to work!

# Children's Ministry Diagnostic Tool

## Value of Children's Ministry

1. There is adequate funding for children's ministry in the church budget.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
2. Children's ministry has equal priority with other ministries of the church  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
3. The church incorporates children into the life and worship of the church during events such as baptism and communion.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
4. Those who plan worship for the entire congregation find ways to incorporate children into the worship services.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
5. The church is actively involved in praying for children and children's ministry.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly

## Staffing/Recruiting

1. The church has a thorough volunteer application process in place.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
2. The application process includes contacting personal references and obtaining background checks before serving.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
3. The church provides, encourages, and requires training for its children's ministry volunteers.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
4. The pastor and children's pastor invite adults to be part of a ministry instead of "asking for volunteers" or "recruiting bodies to fill jobs."  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
5. There is a specific plan for showing appreciation for children's ministry volunteers.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly

## **Safety/Environment**

1. The church has a sign-in and sign-out procedure for all children.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
2. There are at least two adults present in each classroom at all times.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
3. All volunteers are familiar with the Children, Youth, And Worker Protection Policy.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
4. There is a written plan to address discipline, restroom and diapering procedures, food allergies, emergency lock-down, and evacuation.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
5. Each classroom is clean, free of clutter, and decorated in an inviting manner to children.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly

## **Programing**

1. The church provides age-appropriate worship services for children.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
2. The church provides age-appropriate classes for children to teach them Bible content.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
3. The church provides age-appropriate classes for children to teach them how to live for Christ (discipleship).  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
4. The church provides opportunities for children to use their gifts to serve God and others.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly

## **Content**

1. The church has a plan for what to teach at each age/grade level.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly

2. Children are provided with opportunities to experience salvation, sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.  

Never	Occasionally	Regularly
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3. The church has a plan for the discipleship of children.  

Never	Occasionally	Regularly
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4. Children are taught the “facts” of the Bible, i.e. Bible stories, Bible memory, etc.  

Never	Occasionally	Regularly
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5. Children are held accountable to apply what they’re learning and make personal decisions based on their knowledge.  

Never	Occasionally	Regularly
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### **Family/Church Connection**

1. The church provides opportunities for families to worship together.  

Never	Occasionally	Regularly
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2. The church provides resources and support for parents to spiritually nurture their children at home.  

Never	Occasionally	Regularly
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3. The church provides parents with information about what their children are learning in the ministry.  

Never	Occasionally	Regularly
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4. The church involves parents and children in special events such as dedication, baptism, and communion.  

Never	Occasionally	Regularly
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5. The church provides programs and events to strengthen bonds between parents and children.  

Never	Occasionally	Regularly
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6. The church provides support to non-traditional families. i.e. blended families, single-parents, and grandparent-led homes.  

Never	Occasionally	Regularly
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## **Outreach/Evangelism**

1. The church has a plan for outreach/evangelism of unchurched children.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
2. The church regularly conducts children's ministry events outside of the church walls.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
3. Unchurched children and families are contacted immediately after events.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
4. The church has a consistent, positive impact in the community.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
5. Children are equipped to share their faith with others.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly

## **Quality**

1. Teachers and ministry leaders are well prepared.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
2. The curriculum is meaningful and applicable.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
3. Children are treated with kindness and respect.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
4. Discipline is lovingly maintained.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly
5. Teachers and ministry leaders have a sense of calling and divine purpose in their ministry to children.  
Never                      Occasionally                      Regularly

# Strengths and Weaknesses

Based on your team's answers to the Children's Ministry Diagnostic Tool, circle which areas that are strengths.

Value of Children's Ministry

Staffing/Recruiting

Safety/Environment

Programing

Content

Family/Church Connection

Outreach/Evangelism

Quality

Based on your team's answers to the Children's Ministry Diagnostic Tool, circle which areas need improvement.

Value of Children's Ministry

Staffing/Recruiting

Safety/Environment

Programing

Content

Family/Church Connection

Outreach/Evangelism

Quality

## **Plan for Improvement**

Look back at the questions in each section where your church needs to improvement. What is your plan to improve in these areas? List your goals below.

How do you plan to achieve these goals?

Who is responsible for implementing the plans?

When you meet again to evaluate your progress?