

USING MUSIC TO KEEP KIDS ENGAGED

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MUSIC IS ONE OF THE GREATEST TOOLS WE HAVE IN MINISTRY

- a. Music is a powerful thing. It connects us to specific times, events and situations in our life.
- b. What are some emotions and memories that we could trigger in kids through music in our classrooms?"

1. Different ways to utilize music on your campus:

- a. Parking lots, entrances
- b. Hallways
- c. Music playing before and after class
 - A great time to play new songs you'll be introducing for worship to help them become familiar.
- d. Sound effects in class and teaching
- e. Music playing in background for teachable moments
- f. Worship

2. Benefits of music for learning:

- a. The power of music: its impact on the intellectual, social and **personal development of children** and young people http://www.laphil.com/sites/default/files/media/pdfs/shared/education/yola/susan-hallam-music-development_research.pdf
- b. **Health & Focus** <http://www.netdoctor.co.uk/healthy-living/wellbeing/health-benefits-of-music.htm>
- c. **Special Needs**
- d. **Bring us to our best.** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKDXuCE7LeQ>
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/10/alive-inside-documentary_n_5549407.html

3. Music is Biblical:

- a. When we connect to kids using music by having great songs and worship leaders they can relate to and enjoy it opens a door in kids lives to tell the truth of God's word.

YOUR MUSIC IS LIKE A ROLLERCOASTER. LEAD THEM ON A JOURNEY.

1. Picking Songs:

- a. Easy to sing choruses
- b. Simple lyrically
- c. Get feedback from others before you try a song in a service.
- d. Keep in mind the attention span of your group.
 1. Preschool: Song length should be 1.5-2 minutes. 3 minutes only when you have to.
 2. Elementary: Don't do more than 2 or 3 songs in a row for the best participation.

2. Praise Songs:

- **Look At Me** from Walk This Way
- **Unshakeable** from Movin' Me
- **Better Than the Best Thing** from Turn It Up

3. Activity Songs: (action oriented, great kick-offs and energy bursts.)

- **Time to Get Started** from Walk This Way
- **Hands In The Air** from Movin' Me
- **Happy and You Know It** from Zapped

4. Create dynamics in your set.

- a. Go from high energy to slow and from slow to something high energy.
- b. Allow for the familiar. What are your homerun songs?

5. Worship Songs: (Value we place on God.)

- a. Our body naturally acts the way our hearts feel.

Really great blog post: <http://ftc.co/resource-library/blog-entries/why-posture-matters-in-worship>

- **Good Good Father** from Kidmin Worship Vol. 4
- **We Believe** from Kidmin Worship Vol. 4

6. Hymns

- **It Is Well** from Kidmin Worship Vol. 1
- **To God Be The Glory** from Kidmin Worship Vol. 1

7. Scripture Memory Songs:

- **The Rizers**
- **JumpStart 3**



8. Be Creative In Your Song Choices

a. Tips for teaching new songs

- Do it twice in one service
- Two weeks in a row, a week off and then a week on. The next month do it twice in the month.
- Put on pre-service playlist.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ABOUT KIDMIN WORSHIP?

Psalm 8:1&2 God, brilliant Lord, Yours is a household name, nursing infants gurgle choruses about you and toddlers shout the songs that drown out atheist babble. (MSG)

Think about your ministry and answer these questions:

- a. How do you teach kids each week why we worship? (whether that's reasons we sing, clap, lift our hands, show honor to God, etc.)
- b. How do you have people model how to participate?
- c. How do you get the boys in your class get involved?
- d. How have you seen growth over the past six months in how your kids worship?

Common issues Churches face:

- a. **Problem:** Wide span of ages in the class
Solution: Aim high and put the oldest kids in front.
- b. **Problem:** Boys are disengaged
Solutions:
 - Get leaders they can look up to and want to be like.
 - When doing motions: ask yourself if a 10+ boy would want to do that?
 - Don't allow them to be distractions to others or mock worship. Rules are OK
- c. **Problem:** Kids aren't engaging with our music.
Solutions:
 - Evaluate what you're doing.
 - Do your volunteers (off stage) participate and set the example?
- d. **Problem:** Kids don't participate in worship
Solutions: Songs and people are key ingredients but what you teach them about it is important.
 - Do they see others in your church participating in worship?
 - Do they understand and know how to participate?
 - Teach them each week the "why" and "how" of worship.

Teaching kids to worship is not the issue. They know how to. Directing their worship to Jesus is the issue. Help them put God first!



Make a commitment over this next few months to put these things in place in your ministry. I guarantee you week by week and month by month you will see results and growth.

HOW TO MAKE WORSHIP FOR KIDS ROCK

1. Vision

- a. Know the vision of your Children's Pastor or Director
- b. Set a goal for each area of Kidmin Worship
- c. Show the vision to your team
- d. Put expectations, rules, needs in writing.
- e. Recruit
- f. Make time in your class to worship

2. Lead, teach and model worship

- a. Leading worship is more about your leadership ability than your musical ability
- b. Leading worship means more than just standing up there and singing songs
- c. Aerobics instructor: Cast vision, encourage and push/challenge for participation
- d. Look at David's example
- e. Read books to learn:
 - **The Air I Breathe** by Louie Giglio
 - **Extravagant Worship** by Darlene Zschech
 - **Praise Habit** by David Crowder
 - **Facedown** by Matt Redman
 - Other books by Matt Redman and Chris Tomlin
 - **Follow Chris Tomlin on Facebook** for constant great nuggets of wisdom
- f. Big changes needed will require bigger nuggets of teaching initially. Bigger lessons on what's appropriate.
- g. After the initial season you can go to smaller nuggets of teaching each week.
- g. Have leaders build relationships with the kids

3. Evaluate

- a. Get feedback from workers and kids on current status.
- b. Get feedback on new songs you're considering
- c. Continuously coach and train leaders to grow and become more effective in their abilities
- d. Plan and allow for time to be creative: daily, weekly, monthly. "Make an empty space in any corner of your mind and creativity will instantly fill it."

4. Define the win

- a. Set a goal for each weekend and/or month of what you'd like to see happen

5. Pray

- a. Direction
- b. Team

- c. Specific requests
- d. Read the Word
- e. Become a student of worship

6. Reminders for using soundtracks effectively

- a. You control the intro and instrumentals. Don't let them control you.
- b. Plan what you need to say
 - Encourage participation
 - Explain what the song is about
 - Have kids interact with each other
 - You engage them and get a verbal response
 - Even use the outro to encourage worship or carry a transition
- c. Communicate with your sound person what's happening
- d. What's the transition?
 - 1. Know your music and plan accordingly
 - 2. Take an ariel view of the set. What is needed?

7. Creating motions for songs

- a. What is the obvious motion that comes to mind when you listen to the song?
 - 1. Simple
 - 2. Jump, wiggle, movement of arms and legs, spinning
 - 3. General dance moves are always great so more can participate
 - 4. You want the motions to enhance the song not take away from the song
 - 5. Don't worry about having a motion for the entire song. Absence makes the heart grow fonder
 - 6. Have fun!
 - 7. Use props: Find ways for them to participate on stage
- b. If you're receiving push back or lack of participation then you need to evaluate what you're doing.
 - 1. Give kids different ways through different songs of how they can participate.
 - 2. Model different options even from stage.
 - 3. Pray and talk to God about what you need to do!
 - 4. When doing motions: ask yourself if a 10+ boy would want to do that?

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