

The Classroom Environment

What Does It Feel Like?

- As a simple exercise, re-sensitize yourself to how it feels to be a first-time visitor by attending a church where no one knows you.
- Make notes on what the church does and doesn't do well.
- Test the results against what you see happening at your church and what you hear in the follow-up with your visitors.

Additional Support

- Find three or four people in your community who are willing to be “secret” visitors to your church. Provide them with a checklist and have them give feedback about their experiences.

What's That Smell?

- Sights, sounds, and yes, smells are key to making your youth ministry a place to remember – for all the RIGHT reasons.
- Take a walking tour of the rooms you use for your ministry.
 - What do you smell? If there is odor – parents will think twice about leaving their children in your care. Make certain the nursery and children's areas are properly disinfected and tidied. Decorate areas so they are bright, cheerful and inviting.

Additional Support

- Empty trash cans after each class rather than just at the end of the day. Have a volunteer regularly check the bathrooms to see that they are well stocked and clean. Also, visit other churches and classrooms to get decorating ideas.

Classroom Spaces

- Use furniture that is the appropriate size for the child. Set up part of the room for table work and part of the room as open space. Teens enjoy a space that they can relax and feel comfortable in.



Storage

Provide low shelves for storage so that the children can help to keep the room orderly. The children can also get the items that they need for weekly use.



Set up a Prayer Space

- A prayer table encourages the children to add their prayer request each week. Make the table sacred, yet inviting to the children in your classroom.
- Use time during the gathering circle to help children understand how to use the prayer tools.

