

# Volunteer Orientation & Training Ideas

## Orientation

1. Give each new volunteer a copy of the, *Living Curriculum Philosophy*. Invite to read it through as it will give them the steps to presenting a Sunday lesson.
2. Provide a copy of, *The Simple Truth*, from Unity Worldwide Ministries. This gives them a quick overview of Unity Principles that are simplified for children and makes sure they have a basic understanding of Unity Principles.
3. Give them the handout, *So What About the Bible*. This will give them an overview of Unity's view of the Bible and how the stories are used in the classroom.
4. Schedule a meeting with your new volunteer(s) and review:
  - a. The logistics of the youth & family ministry program: teacher agreements; meeting times; classroom set up; supplies; curriculum, scheduling, etc...
  - b. Review the three required readings to make sure they are comfortable with the materials and feel supported.
5. Each new volunteer either observes and/or assists in a classroom with an experienced teacher for a least four Sundays so they feel comfortable being in the classroom. It also might be helpful to rotate them through the different age groups so they can figure out with what age group they most resonate.

## Teacher's Meetings

1. Create a regular schedule of teachers' meetings. They can be done every other month or quarterly, depending on the size and needs of the program. *I have found that meeting on Sundays, immediately following the Sunday Service works well as most of the teachers are either teaching or attending services.*
2. Keep the meeting to one to one and a half hours.
3. Lunch is provided as it offers an opportunity for socializing and team building. Begin the meeting when the group is about half way through their meal.
4. Meeting topics can include: (Select only one topic per meeting and keep to your time frame)
  - a. Curriculum review
  - b. Team building
  - c. Brainstorming for new events, fundraising, new ideas
  - d. Questions & answers
  - e. Learning a new skill such as: *Multiple Intelligence; Ages/Stages of Development; Using the Bible; The Living Curriculum Questioning Strategy; Storytelling; HeartMath; Music; Engaging Children in Creative Experience, etc...*
  - f. Provide handouts and resources as needed.

## Additional Trainings

1. Encourage participation in local and regional trainings that will enhance your team's skills.
2. Encourage one or two people per year to attend the National Youth Ministry Training Week at Unity Village.
3. Make sure your youth ministry budget has enough funding to financially support your volunteers in attending the events.