

What are my responsibilities?

As a trainer at MEC Children's Church we ask that you:

- give your trainee a chance to lead parts of the lesson that they are comfortable with
- build a relationship with your trainee, take an interest in their life and family
- pray for your trainee, as you pray for your Children's Church preparation and the children in your group
- give specific and helpful feedback
- encourage your trainee by helping them to identify their strengths and areas of growth
- be deliberate in talking to your trainee about what they would like to try before your teaching block starts, and at least once during the teaching block
- be organised so that the trainee can identify a week in advance what part of the lesson they would like to be involved in
- follow up serious concerns immediately with the Children's Church Coordinator
- guide the trainee in their involvement so that they choose activities to lead that they will probably succeed in. Help them to be realistic about time commitments and finances
- encourage your trainee to pray that both they, and the kids they are teaching, will grow in their understanding of God
- make sure that your trainee is aware of any Child Protection or safety concerns that may affect how they run their part of the lesson. You are the adult in the room, and therefore responsibility in these areas remains with you

Training at MEC Children's Church



Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
And the things you have heard me say,
entrust to reliable people who will also be
qualified to teach others.

2 Tim 2:1-2

About Children's Ministry at MEC

At Maitland Evangelical Church, we aim, by the grace of God, to see that all who come under our care are saved, trained in godliness and equipped to do good works (2 Tim 3:16-17). This is so that they can play their part in our vision to be salt and light in the city of Maitland.

We do this throughout our children's programs by:

- teaching the bible at the child or teenager's level
- praying for them and with them
- building appropriate and supportive relationships with congregation members and their families
- modeling faith

Training at MEC

We are keen for all people in our congregation to be equipped to serve God by using their abilities and availability to serve His church. One way of doing this is helping with Children's Church. We ask that those who wish to work with children or teens at MEC:

- have submitted to Jesus as their Lord
- seek to live a godly life
- believe the Bible is central to the way that we know God and make Him known
- are committed to teaching the Bible in age appropriate ways as the focus of their lessons
- are willing and able to pray *for* those they teach, and pray *with* them in lessons
- will seek to be gentle, to love and encourage those they lead, and build relationships over time with them and their families

We ask that trainees at MEC Children's Church come already able to:

- explain why we need Jesus
- pray with the children
- play with the children

We will work together with them to help them develop other skills and knowledge over time.

How do I train someone?

Training involves finding out what your trainee can already do, and then supporting them to develop skills that are one step on from that.

For example, a trainee may start by taking on responsibility for one of the more straight-forward parts of the lesson such as:

- prayer
- singing
- the memory verse
- the mission spot
- a game

Once the trainee has gained confidence in one of these roles, they may move on to others, trying one at a time (or more than one per lesson as their confidence grows).

Eventually the trainee might give their testimony or move on to giving a talk or Bible Study. They will need guidance and support in their preparation to do this, and it is important that teenagers with a heavy study load are only given tasks with minimal preparation. Pray with them for their part in each lesson.

Please pray for your trainee and take the time to give encouraging feedback. It is important to offer correction and direction, but the rule of thumb is that learners need to hear four positive comments for every negative one if they are going to feel good about their progress and persevere.

How will I be supported?

We thank God for your contribution to building up our Children's Ministry and our church. Your section leader and the Children's Church Coordinator will regularly ask you how your partnership with your trainee is going. We will pray for you, offer practical assistance, or demonstrations wherever we can, and problem solve if necessary. Please feel free to ask questions about the training process at any time.