

When ADHD Comes To Church

Linda Mei Lin Koh
GC Children's Ministries



These Amazing Kids Can Exhibit Any/All Of These Characteristics:

- Lack of impulse control



- Challenged with Taking Turns with other children





▪ **Difficulty in following directions**



- **Difficulty remembering things**

- Easily distracted and can't stay focused



- Has a tendency to not stay with the group





- **Difficulty finishing tasks**

- **Appear not to listen when spoken to**



- Will demonstrate times of fidgeting, tapping, and squirming



How to Create A Welcoming Environment:



1. Start fresh with every session. Each child needs to feel that you are glad he has come to church.

2. Plan independent times for all children to interact with each other. This helps them build relationships with other children





3. Identify resources that can be put away instead of causing the child to get in trouble



4. Work closely with parents. Plan to meet with them as needed to discuss strategies that are consistent at home and at church



5. Look for positive & affirming comments when the child is successful.

6. Keep rewards tangible





7. Provide a place for a child to go in case of inappropriate behavior that requires removal from an inappropriate situation

How to Manage Classroom Activities Successfully:



1. Set clear expectations & post simple rules that are easily understood

2. Post a visual schedule; placing times on elements in the session can frustrate children with ADHD and they become stressed when the group does not stay on schedule.

- They do like the consistency of knowing what order to expect.



3. Provide a merging time at the beginning of learning sessions.

--This gives them an opportunity to “ease into the environment.”

-- Purpose to have a more structured group time later in the session.





**4. Limit “sit still”
time. Plan for
“hands-on”
activities.**



5. Offer “fidget toys” during times of listening.

6. Keep transition times to a minimum.





7. Make sure you have the child's attention. If necessary, have the child repeat a given direction.



8. When possible, include a video element. This can be captivating for kids with ADHD.

10. Enlist an additional helper to assist a child with ADHD when needed.



Final Analysis

- Leaders who work with children will inevitably face the challenge of an inattentive or hyperactive child. Some will be diagnosed professionally while others wrongly labeled by church leaders.
- Regardless of the diagnosis, any leader can **create** a learning environment that encourages all children to learn and feel accepted.



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Carlton McDaniel, *Lifeway Christian Resources*,
January 1, 2014

<https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/how-to-teach-children-with-adhd>

Jerry Vogel, Lifeway, *Kids Ministry 101*, June 15,
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