

Chapter 11

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATION

Coordinating children's ministries for the local church involves leadership and training for teachers and leaders. The Children's Ministries coordinator can contact the conference director to assist with training volunteers on a regular basis. Each coordinator is free to use any training programs of his or her choice. The General Conference Children's Ministries Department offers nine courses for the basic level of the Leadership Certification program. These courses can be taught as seminars during teachers' conventions, leadership training, or certification weekends. It may take several months to a year to complete all nine courses, after which a certificate from the General Conference Children's Ministries Department will be given to each participant.



For those leaders who wish to have advanced training, the North American Division Children's Ministries Leaders' Certification is another valuable program to use.

BASIC LEVEL

1. Understanding GraceLink

A walk through the GraceLink curriculum, learning about how the four dynamics of grace, worship, community, and service are incorporated into the Bible lessons, and understanding the new approach to teaching it.

2. Active Learning

Discover the interesting and best method of teaching children of any age by involving them in activities rather than through lectures.

3. Faith Development of Children

Find out how children develop their faith and learn to lead them through the stages of faith development to a committed relationship with Jesus Christ.

4. Positive Class Discipline

Learn some ideas of managing a class with grace and firmness as you facilitate active learning in your lessons.

5. Raising Kids to Adore God

Help parents learn the most effective ways to raise children to adore God by making worship as a lifestyle.

6. Protecting Children from Abuse (Screening Volunteers)

Protect the children in your church by implementing an effective procedure for volunteer screening. Learn how to introduce volunteer application forms without insulting long-time leaders.

7. Safety and Emergency Procedures for Children

Provide safety for children in church-sponsored activities by implementing procedures that protect them from physical harm, danger, accidents, and other unforeseen hazards.

8. Understanding Child Development: Birth Through Early Teen

Discover the developmental characteristics of children ages 0-14, how they learn, and how best to teach them. Understand the needs, the strengths, and the challenges of pre-adolescents. Learn practical tips for keeping them connected to the group and to Jesus.

9. Understanding How Children Learn

Understand how children learn through their different learning styles and try to meet the needs of each type of learner. Discover the secrets for developing a successful lesson plan.

For more details on the courses, please refer to the following sources:

- *The Children's Ministries Handbook*, by The General Conference Department of Children's Ministries, 2005.
- The General Conference Children's Ministries website at www.childrensministries.gc.adventist.org