

Encouraging and Affirming Ministry Workers

Nurturing Disciples

B.E.S.T.

From John Maxwell's *Developing the Leaders Around You*, Thomas Nelson, 1995.

- Believe in them.
- Encourage them.
- Share with them.
- Trust them.

I would like to add one more:

- Pray for and with them and encourage your teachers to do the same for the children under their care.

Affirming Children's Ministry Workers

- Periodic notes of encouragement
- Phone calls asking how ministry is going
- Small thank you gifts and cards
- Picnics and banquets
- Dedication service
- Thank you cards from children
- Affirm them during congregational worship gatherings
- Testimonies from children
 - Testimonies from children within the context of worship not only lift up Christ but also are a testimony of the importance of ministry with children. Others may hear this and ask themselves for the first time, "Is this a ministry I should be involved in?"

Support Gatherings

- Prayer and Encouragement
- Mission Overview
- Ministry Overview and Calendar
- Church/Home Partnership Specifics
- Offer Resources
- Work time to coordinate ministry
- Ideas, Thoughts and Questions

One of the best things you can do as a children's ministry leader when you bring your staff together is to give teachers/disciplers time to prepare for the next months' sessions.

Review

1. Help establish a **positive climate**
2. Recognize that ministering with children is a **high calling**
3. **Care** as you recruit
4. **Nurture** toward maturity
5. **Encourage** and **Affirm**