

Writing Objectives

Besides writing values, vision and mission statements as you are engaged in children's ministry planning, you will want to write specific ministry objectives. Objectives should be specific and include 'who', 'what', 'when' and 'where' information.

Objectives must also be measurable so that they can be evaluated. In order to create measurable ministry objectives, always include a specific action verb. To state, for example, that a child will **learn** what grace means is not measurable. But to say a child will **define** grace is measurable.

Examples of Lesson Action Verbs:

analyze	describe	name	recognize
apply	design	operate	relate
classify	detect	order	select
compare	determine	organize	solve
compose	diagnose	perform	specify
construct	distinguish	predict	state
contrast	evaluate	prepare	transfer
define	identify	recall	translate
demonstrate	list	recite	write

Examples of Objectives:

Quarterly objectives:

During this quarter children will...

Read the first 10 chapters of Matthew.

Pray the scriptures during each session.

Visit with residents in a nursing home.

Help with ushering in worship during two Sundays.

Teacher objectives:

During this year children's ministry teachers will...

Contact each child by phone once per quarter.

Affirm each child at least once during each session.

Pray for each child each week.

Note that although there are two types of objectives, each identifies the main subject: in the first case, children, and in the second case, teachers. The action verb or the 'what' is highlighted for each objective. It is also important to include the 'when', or the **frequency**.