

Bear Hunt

GROUP 1

Group 1 questions

What is your 'bear' i.e. what are some playgroup goals or aims?

How could a goal be determined, who needs to be involved?

What could be a person's passion who joins the playgroup team?

What goals would you suggest for the CPN?

Answers:

Goals

- Safe, belong, relationship, JESUS, creative, nurturing, messy and fun

How

- Training, empowering, encouraging, prayer

Who

- Committed leadership, prayer partners, church members

What

- Relationships, Jesus, children, craft, health, music, parenting – encouragement

GROUP 2

Group 2 questions

What would a "BIG" dream playgroup look like?

Go further, dream big, think outside the playgroup square, challenge the impossible; now what does this look like?

What is a "BIG" dream for the CPN?

What steps would you suggest to fulfill a dream for a playgroup and/or CPN?

What pitfalls would you warn against?

Answers:

Dream for CPN...

- People
- Money
- Clusters of people networking
- National/global

Go further...

- Reaching the community families especially the high needs and 'at risk'
- New models (time in – time out playgroup)

“Big” dream playgroup...

- Consistent attendance
- Pastoral care for all families
- “Walkway” from playgroup to church and church to playgroup
- Paid facilitator for each group
- Unlimited budget

GROUP 3

Group 3 questions

What makes a “beautiful” day at playgroup for parents, children, volunteers and leaders?

What is a successful playgroup?

What makes CPN successful?

What is necessary to sustain and maintain a “beautiful” playgroup/CPN?

Answers

1. UNITY: no fighting, biting, showing love between Christian and non Christian mums; being alongside each other; mums supported, chance to let off the pressure; people leave at the end more positive – come back energized/ exhausted / not deflated seeing kids play / enjoy/ kids like imaginative free play; really engage children – others can relax and watch them and are happy.

SAFETY: for everyone; “I love coming here it’ safe; time to develop friendships – chatting together; first time in a group they don’t feel judged; relax and enjoy themselves – no comparisons; share similar experiences when I had some deep conversations – spiritual, not just

chit chat. Use Facebook – good for networking; go deeper- quicker; Bible verses – snowballed – set up a playgroup Facebook page

WEBSITE: Set up a prayer group; friends to pray about issues i.e. church does not support financially, prayerfully – amalgamating to other churches – God provides in mysterious ways I prayed about it. Health issues to pray about strictly confidential – specific prayer – critical – communicate to church about playgroup – pastors – prayer teams – Monday nights – share with church – enquiries – newsletter – raising leaders – new set ups.

2. SUCCESSFUL PLAYGROUP = where everybody looks after each other; coming regularly; some people coming to Christ – small steps – seed planting – mostly doing what God wants us to do – just getting started – the goal moves nothing to do with numbers – not many dropping out hot weather – what are you trying to achieve – what is the passion God put on your heart; are you stepping into your passion?

GROUP 4

Group 4 questions

I'm not scared.... Generally what are fears and anxieties faced by playgroup leaders?

What comfort zones hold playgroups/CPN back?

What fears, concerns may playgroup families bring to playgroup?

How can we make playgroup an emotionally and spiritually safe place for children/parents/carers/volunteers.

Suggest ways for continual reorientation to keep members positive and committed.

Answers:

Leader's fears

- When not comfortable having to do things such as singing, leading or craft
- Interpersonal skills when talking about God. Fear of rejection, causing offence or cultural issues
- Fear of handling children's behaviour

Family fears

- Ideas on church
- Acceptance – friendship groups
- Parenting – judgment
- Exposure-opening up and letting people in

Problem solving ideas

- Clear communication of values; aims and objectives; purpose
- Writing a letter to new families
- Visual cues on values
- Modeling behaviour
- Leaders praying together
- Connecting playgroup with church
- Events with church families and playgroup families
- Playing with love

GROUP 5 (a very swishy swashy group)

Group 5 questions

What are some of the challenges you may encounter along the playgroup journey that you must 'go through'? For each challenge suggest ways to prevent or work through this challenge.

Answers:

Challenges

- Getting started #
- Poor behavior +
- Working – goals; aims; background; style and experience *
- Guidelines (given to parents) not adhered to +
- Dealing with 'cliques' +
- Encouraging parents to engage with their children +
- Getting church to take on playgroups as a ministry *
- Moving conversations towards faith issues *
 - Don't want to be seen as pushy
 - How to share naturally
 - Prayer first to prepare oneself
 - Kid free zones – coffee/desert nights – 'God' talk
 - Giving out a 'verse' card
 - Being intentional; asking, "Are you interested?" ...
 - Praying as a team before and letting parents know they are welcome

*Motivation/ basis

#Practicalities PV; CPN

+Issues

CPN have done much to encourage this.

Keep on sharing stories.

GROUP 6

Group 6 questions

Reaching a goal

How can a playgroup/CPN prepare for and facilitate reaching a goal? Give examples.

How can a playgroup/CPN celebrate reaching a goal?

How can we avoid complacency when a goal is reached?

What if set goals are not achieved? What course of action should be taken?

Answers:

We need a goal

- We must have an aim
- We need to have a short term goal so as to see some success
- Also need long term goals need to realize and pray for the Lord's goal
- We need to seek wisdom in setting goals

Need to be open in our goal setting

- As they can travel may change
- Small goals – planting seeds for others to harvest
- Preserver and not be down when we do not see changes happening in lives

Question 2

- Lots of prayer
- Environment we set up – meets the needs
- Be prepared for the end results e.g. groups move into children's program for church time; leaflets and books; networking the churches and community
- Don't be insecure about your own group if it does not have what is required for someone