

Connecting With Parents

Why Connect with Parents?

- ☆ To show God's love to parents.
- ☆ To introduce the gospel to parents who may not have heard the message of salvation.
- ☆ To welcome parents who may not be familiar with church.
- ☆ To better inform parents about Awana.
- ☆ To familiarize the parents with basic guidelines as to what is expected of their children.
- ☆ To encourage parents who could be good leaders, but are hesitant to volunteer.
- ☆ To know we support them in their quest to spiritually nurture their children.
- ☆ To provide parents with resources they can adapt to their child's spiritual training.

WAYS TO CONNECT TO PARENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR

- ☆ Direct parents to the registration table. Introduce them to other leaders (especially friendly other leaders). Give them contact information so they can ask questions.
- ☆ Plan a parents' night early in the year so you have the opportunity to get to know the parents better. Explain how they can continue to get information about club during the year, give opportunity for questions and thank them for the privilege of working with their children.
- ☆ Provide a parents' guidebook with handbook summaries, Awana guidelines (an adult must come for a child, snow days will be posted on the church website, etc.) a club calendar, list of special events, etc.
- ☆ Introduce leaders to parents at the parents' night, via email, a newsletter, a bulletin board, etc. Give the leaders' name, their interests, etc. Let them know that all leaders have been through training which includes the child protection policy.
- ☆ Invite parents to visit the club at any time. (Not many of them will, but just being told that they can will help them feel secure about your program.)

WAYS TO CONNECT PARENTS DURING THE YEAR.

- ☆ Be present on social media so that parents can follow along with club achievements and activities. (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) Make sure you have parental permission to post a child's picture. Many churches are asking for that permission on their registration form.

- ☆ Have coffee/tea/water and snacks available in a lobby or parents' room so parents can chat. Invite a friendly leader (or church member) to hang around and converse with them, getting to know them in a personal way.
- ☆ Plan a parenting seminar or Bible study for dad and mom while the kids are in club.
- ☆ Hold special events for parents.
- ☆ End club with a Parent Minute. (Invite parents in the clubroom for the final announcements.)

WAYS TO CONNECT WITH PARENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR:

- ☆ Invite everyone to awards night. Plan a program where all kids take part, not just book finishers. Use the opportunity to chat with parents.
- ☆ Present the gospel.
- ☆ Let parents know about any summer events and when club will start in the fall.
- ☆ Thank the parents for allowing you the privilege of teaching their kids throughout the year. (Leaders could do this personally to the parents of the kids in their group.)
- ☆ Give parents and kids an opportunity to visit the clubs and leaders the child will have the coming year.