



Connections House

Children's Outreach Ministry - Example Schedule & Information

Recommended Length of Outreach: 3 to 3.5 Hours

30 - 45 Minutes	Activities & Games Allow the children time to arrive while running different activities and unorganized games. It is not uncommon for a lot of the children to arrive 30-45 minutes after the starting time, or even halfway through your outreach. Be flexible and consider starting organized games a little later than planned. Examples: Soccer, basketball, bubbles, face painting, coloring/painting table, craft table (gospel bracelets, photo frames for polaroid photos of kids, bead bracelets, decorate notebooks, etc.), animal balloons, jump rope, or sidewalk chalk.
30 Minutes	Organized Games Structured games; Promoting teamwork, encouraging them to get to know each other or games that are just plain fun! Elimination games work well with large groups. We strongly recommend doing the activity and game times at the beginning, followed by songs, to help wear the kids out a little and hopefully be able to sit quietly for the testimony/teaching time. Cut the Cake, Dodgeball, Musical Chairs, Human Knot, Sharks and Minnows, or relay games; If you have young children about 5 and under, it's a good idea to run separate games for them such as Duck Duck Goose, Follow the Leader (with some obstacles to walk on, over or through), or Ball/Frisbee Throwing Contests. You can also do a bunch of activities at the same time, like sidewalk chalk, blocks, Playdough, etc.; Especially with very large groups (50 and up), separate your children 12-17 and play games like Who Started the Motion, Tug of War, Capture the Flag, Blanket Volleyball, or Donkey Baby Backpack.
15-20 Minutes	Songs Songs should be in Spanish. If you don't have someone that can lead in Spanish, you can play recorded songs and have a group lead the kids with motions to the songs. Our Connections Ministry Coordinator can help you obtain songs, chords, and videos to help your team learn the songs.
3-6 Minutes	Testimony Especially with younger children, the testimony time is optional. It's ideal for youth if you have them separated during this time. Otherwise, keep your testimony for groups of or including younger children to 5-6 minutes with translation (3-4 minutes in Spanish only).
5-8 Minutes	Skit/Drama/Human Video This is sometimes better during or after your teaching, depending on if it correlates with your Bible lesson or not. If not, or if it doesn't make a difference, it's better to put it in between a testimony and teaching time to break up the talking a little bit. You may also choose to teach your lesson as a narrated drama where you recite your story while a group from your team acts it out. Getting the children to participate somehow also makes it more memorable and helps keep the children's attention. A human video is silently acting out a drama that is themed around a Christian song. The song should be in Spanish, so if you aren't sure if there is a Spanish version, check with our Ministry Coordinator. To see an example of a human video, google Everything by Lifehouse drama.
8-12 Minutes	Teaching & Questions Again, with groups (especially large groups) of younger children, you will want to keep your Bible lesson kind of short. Reuse your church's VBS curriculum, purchase your own, or download some free lessons in both English and Spanish at truesdaykids.com . Their lessons include activity and color sheets, craft ideas with material lists and instructions, and more. Be sure to always bring a copy in Spanish when available for your translators. We recommend ending your teaching time with some questions. (This can also be done after sharing the gospel.) Ask questions and call on the children that quietly raise their hands to answer them. You can also bring candy or small prizes to give to those that answer correctly.

<p>4-6 Minutes</p>	<p>Share the Gospel</p> <p>This is never optional. Feel free to think of some creative ways to grab the kids' attention. Be sure to stress that you are asking who would like to ask Jesus into their heart for the very <u>first</u> time.</p> <p>Two popular tools are the Romans Road and The Bridge illustration. You can also use the "gospel bracelet colors" as an illustration. There are wordless books, but you can also use colored paper or objects with those colors, to demonstrate this as well. Use your imagination!</p> <p>We strongly suggest having the kids raise their hands or go to the back of the room and talk with a couple of members of your team. Before asking them to raise their hands, try and be clear that there's no prize. You are not asking this question because they are going to get something by raising their hand. Their reward is to spend eternity in heaven with Jesus.</p>
<p>10 - 15 Minutes</p>	<p>Memory Verse</p> <p>The memory verse is also something that could be done before or during the teaching, if preferred. Try and think of creative ways to teach the memory verse.</p> <p>Some popular ways are to blow up balloons and write one word of the verse on each balloon. Have some children hold the balloons and stand up front in a line. Have all the kids read the verse out loud several times. (The younger children that cannot read will learn it by hearing the rest of the group repeat it.) Pop one word at a time, saying the verse once or twice with each new missing word. This same technique can be accomplished with with a dry erase board or words written on card stock that kids or members of your group can hold up. (Note: Some children will be afraid to pop the balloons.) You can also make 6-8 sets of verses written on index cards. break the children up into groups, and have them unscramble the words to put the verse in order. This can also be done by making little puzzles out of cardstock paper and having each group put their puzzles together.</p> <p>At the end, you can have the kids form 3-5 lines with someone at the head of each line that can listen to them say their memory verse. Then give out a small prize or candy to all the children that say it correctly.</p>
<p>25-35 Minutes</p>	<p>Craft</p> <p>The craft is a great way to reinforce what the children learned in their lesson. Having some coloring pages for children that finish early or that may be too young for the craft is a great idea. The coloring pages can also coincide with your lesson and even have the verse printed on it (in Spanish; the RVR 1960 version is the most commonly used). You can also have some activity sheets for the older kids that finish early, such as word scrambles, mazes, or crossword puzzles.</p>
<p>Snack: 10 Minutes; • Meal: 30 Minutes</p>	<p>Snack or Meal</p> <p>We highly recommend bringing a snack or serving a meal to the children. If you do, please keep in mind that there are also a lot of parents that stay and we would want to have enough for everyone. Connections will let you know how many people to plan for. Snacks can be anything from chips or cookies, to candy or fruit, and can be served at any time. One thing that works well is serving a snack after song time, so they are busy eating during the teaching or testimony.</p> <p>If serving a meal, it will be served at the end of your outreach. Plan for your team to eat this meal as well, unless discussed prior with Connections staff. Food is a great way to attract people from the community to attend your outreach, but if served early it is not uncommon for people to leave afterwards.</p>
<p>15-20 Minutes</p>	<p>Games/Activities</p> <p>Outreaches are publicized as a certain time frame (i.e. 1-4:00pm) to allow for people to know how long we will be there. Therefore, finishing early is not an option. If you have any time left, you can fill it in with some more games and activities, like the ones at the beginning of the outreach. Feel free to repeat anything that the kids enjoyed doing.</p>
<p>15-20 Minutes</p>	<p>After Outreach: Clean Up</p> <p>Whether your outreach was at a church or in a nearby park, we always want to leave a ministry site as clean, if not cleaner, than it was when we arrived. Please be sure to pick up all garbage and reset any tables, chairs, etc. as needed. Sweep as needed. If your outreach was outdoors, be sure to help return any tables, chairs, pop-up tents, etc. to the church.</p>

Note: A lot of parents/grandparents (especially women) stay for the outreaches. Consider doing women's ministry or a separate time of worship, testimonies, message and sharing the gospel for the adults present.