

THE ENCOURAGER

Help for Sunday School Teachers—Dedicated to those who take the Word of Life to Children Everywhere

Mailing Address:
RR 1 - Site 4 - Box 408
Port McNicoll, ON L0K 1R0
Canada

Phone: 705-534-4465
Fax: 705-534-9958
Email:
1sharpie@rogers.com

Web: www.gospelhall.org

EVEN A WHEELCHAIR CAN HELP

As to Rob, his wheelchair might actually help. It brings him physically closer to the level of kids. Though he has had a problem with the idea of his own space since folks come up to him and he has no way of guarding "his space."

At conferences, most every little old lady (sorry, just used that for purposes of illustration) wants to kiss him and he is right there and pretty much defenseless. That may work positively for the kids, too. The younger ones like the rides. Overall, though, Rob has a good memory and he makes a connection with each "kid" (2-20). He may have a special name for them or may kid them about some detail he has tucked in his memory. He takes the time to speak with them and knows them by name. I've heard him make remarks about how good they look in some special new shirt or something like that. He loves kids and they know that. With his injury, he is vulnerable and they know that, too, but he easily enlists their help for little things and that conveys trust. For instance, when he is opening a children's meeting and uses the overhead for the choruses, he needs someone to work the projector and someone to find the choruses for him. He spreads those duties around. He has a sense of humor and uses that with the kids. Kids come to him with their difficulties - including the "he hit me" type. His humor and a little bit of a creative wisdom serve him pretty well in handling that. Basically, Rob takes the responsibility of working with kids seriously. He comes across as genuine (he is not just putting that on), and is sensitive to the living conditions from which those kids come.



LESSONS:

Use what you have—where you are.

Get down to the level of the kids.

Look for opportunities to use your God-given skills.

Get personal—know their names. Use your head—remember meaningful details.

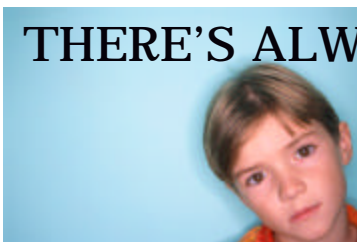
Utilize honest flattery.

Keep and develop a sense of humour.

Be approachable and take time..

Enlist their help—the trust it conveys is priceless.

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR!



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"Mom, my teacher was asking me today if I have any brothers or sisters who will be coming to school."

"That's nice of her to take such an interest, dear. What did she say when you told her you are the only child?"

She just said, "Thank goodness!"