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Building a Successful Teaching Team

by Verda Rubottom

“Two are better than one, because they have a good (more satisfying) reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!”
(Ecclesiastes 4:9,10, Amplified Bible)

Ask children's pastors what their greatest needs are in children's ministry, and most will say that getting enough qualified workers is among the top three concerns on their list. One reason for this is the hectic society we live in where time is at a premium.

Yet, despite busy schedules, concerned Christians desire to contribute something of their time and resources to expand the kingdom of God. How can we get people involved in Christian education when many feel they are already stretched to the limit? One answer to this modern day dilemma can be found in the team-teaching concept.

Take the example of a mother with several small children who may feel she just doesn't have time to teach a class—that is until you invite her to be part of a

teaching team. A team consists of people who share teaching tasks but are not responsible for the whole program.

There are a number of ways to divide up a teaching team. A class secretary can welcome the children and help them feel at ease upon arrival. She can keep track of birthdays and record



attendance along with other pertinent information. Secretaries can also send cards, make phone calls, put up bulletin boards, and help prepare teaching materials.

Other team contributions include: preparing an interest center, presenting an object lesson or a puppet play, leading worship, preparing pre-session or craft activities, or leading Bible review games. Team members can be part of a drama

team that makes occasional visits to the classroom as Bible or modern-day characters.

Benefits of Team Teaching

Consider the benefits of team teaching when recruiting for your children's department. Some of these are listed below:

- 1 Teaching materials and resources are multiplied through the contributions of various team members.
- 2 Larger classes can be taught more effectively using the team concept.
- 3 Team members can learn new teaching methods from each other.
- 4 Fellowship opportunities are increased as people work together.
- 5 Team teaching helps prevent overload or burnout.
- 6 Team teaching utilizes the natural abilities and spiritual gifts of several people.
- 7 Team teaching provides in-service training for the novice teacher.
- 8 Discipline problems are reduced as more workers attend to the needs of the individual child.

