*Edit this page to fit your ministry setting. Then remove this note.*

**TEN TIPS FOR PUPPET TEAMS**

1. **Identify a leader.**

The leader need not be talented in puppetry, though that would be helpful. The leader, however, needs to be able to lead people by casting a vision for the ministry, gathering people, and coordinating the efforts.

1. **Begin with a purpose.**

Cast a vision for your ministry. Make it more than just playing with puppets. See it as a ministry that communicates the life-changing message of Jesus in a most engaging way for children. Decide if you want your ministry to just reach Sunday morning children or if you would like to launch it into outreach activities for kids in the community.

1. **Recruit a team.**

When you recruit your puppet ministry team, don’t forget teenagers who oftentimes make excellent puppeteers. However, set the standard of quality as high as you can.

1. **Organize a schedule.**

A team must communicate well if it is to function properly. One of the most vital pieces of information is deciding who is to do what. Organize a schedule for team members so last minute surprises are kept at a minimum.

1. **Train your team.**

See www.kidskountpublishing.com for the *Skillbuilders DVD for Puppeteers.* Check other websites for training resources: [www.puppetproductions.com](http://www.puppetproductions.com)

[www.onewaystreet.com](http://www.onewaystreet.com), [www.axtell.com](http://www.axtell.com). Also check for puppet ministry workshops coming to your area.

1. **Practice.**

Weekly practice may not be necessary but you may want to practice monthly to give time for meeting and developing your skills together.

1. **Videotape your productions.**

Help individual puppeteers improve by videotaping them so they can see the strengths and weaknesses of their presentations.

**8. Work on basic technique.**

Watch for common flaws such as lips out of synch, gazing in the wrong direction, and head popping (not lowering the bottom jaw when talking). Also practice always keeping the puppet in motion, even if it is slight movements.

1. **Give attention to lighting.**

Extra spotlights or floodlights will help children focus on the puppets when it is time. This makes a big difference in capturing children’s attention.

1. **Give attention to sound and stage.**

Amplify puppeteers with microphones and speakers. Build stages that fit your facility. For special stage designs get *Build It Yourself Puppet Stages* DVD available from www.kidskountpublishing.com.