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

## **INVOLVING THE CROWD**

## **WITHOUT LOSING CONTROL**

1. **Make a strong entrance.**

Many presenters begin with the rhetorical question, “How are you today?” Kids don’t know whether to respond or not. But it is certainly not a question that warms up the audience or grabs their attention. Consider something like this instead. “I can’t wait to meet our mystery guest today.” With preschool kids you might say, “Hands on your nose, hands on your toes, hands on your back, hands on your lap. I can tell you are ready to listen. You are now ready to meet a most interesting Bible character...” For older kids it is effective to bring out the mystery box and start telling the story directly, with no further introduction. Another idea to warm up your audience is to make a comment of something positive or humorous about was done in small group warm-up or as they entered the room. Remember, be brief and capture their attention!

1. **Keep expectations clear.**

The expectations for crowd control need to be short simple and clearly stated each week. This can be done in the following way: “I really do believe that we have some of the greatest kids in the world attending here this Sunday. They know the best way to get the most out of this experience. They pay attention up front, do their part when asked, and they remember not to talk to their neighbor until the presentation is over. “

1. **Quiet the room before presenting.**

If kids are talking to one another, don’t try and talk over them. Instead, get them back on track by using one of the following techniques:

* + Stop, be quiet, stare down, and even approach anyone who is talking without permission or distracting a neighbor.
  + Call that kid to do some motion or action. Continue until the rest of the kids are ready to do an activity or are ready to focus.
  + Briefly explain your expectations.
  + Change your tone of voice and ask for their attention because what you are going to say is very important.

It is best not to ask for their attention, but rather to capture it by involving them.

1. **Handle discipline problems with a team approach.**

Make sure other adults are in the area and can break up any disruptions or conversations between children. After being warned once, a child needs to be removed from the center of the group and placed on the outer edge. Though this is a brief distraction, the rest of the kids will know that you mean business.