

Friends Club



Child Care

Additional Project Ideas

Parents' Night Out. Plan a "Parents' Night Out" for the church and charge a flat rate for childcare per child (or with limits per family). Have the parents sign up beforehand so you can insure that you have enough girls to staff the nursery. If you have a small club, you could combine with the Girls Only Club or older girls in the youth group in your church. Use the evening as a fundraiser for TGMissions.

Invite the family. Invite parents with children of different ages to come in and talk with the girls. Have the parents describe a typical day, favorite activities for children, big events in their lives right now, and differences from child to child in personality and development. Encourage the girls to ask questions.

Ask around. Have the girls interview their parents about their time growing up. Encourage the girls to ask questions about what it was like when they came home from the hospital, what they were like as babies, what their first words were, when they took their first step, etc. As a club, take time to brainstorm different questions to ask. Have the girls write an essay about what they learn and share their findings with the rest of the group. (Be sensitive to girls who have a difficult home life. Provide an alternate activity if some girls will not be able to talk with parents or other family members about their childhood.)

Write a story. Have the girls write and illustrate a children's story with a positive message. Coordinate with other sponsors to have your girls share their stories with younger clubs.

Sing about it. Have the girls come up with a list of praise and worship songs or some of their favorite Christian songs with lyrics that come straight from Scripture. Ask your church's worship leader to help you come up with ideas, come in and help the girls think of ideas, or talk to the girls about the process of writing songs. If you have musical girls in your group, have the girls write a song using Scripture verses as lyrics. Let the girls teach the song to a younger club. Have a short worship service with your girls and sing songs that all come from Scripture.

Picture parade. Have the girls bring in pictures of their growing up years to share with the club. Have girls bring in a baby picture. Mix the pictures up and have the girls guess who the babies grew up to be. Bring in some of your own pictures from growing up. The girls will love to see the differences between their pictures and yours.

Be prepared. Have the girls put together baby-sitting kits. Include books, toys, craft ideas, games, and a simple first-aid kit. Be sure to include emergency numbers for your area. Have the girls decorate their kits. You can use Rubbermaid containers, book bags, or boxes with handles. Let the girls get creative!

Help out. Challenge your girls to help out in a Sunday School class, children's church service, or in the church nursery. Ask the girls to make observations about how the kids pay attention, how kids of different age levels act, and anything else they notice while helping.

Resource Ideas

- *Babysitting Basics* http://www.kidshealth.org/teen/school_jobs/jobs/babysit.html.
- *Babysitter's Business Kit* (American Girls Series) by Harriet Brown, American Girl Publishing, 2007.

Additional Discussion Questions

Discovery #1

- How can God use children?
- How can God use someone your age?
- How can God use adults?

Discovery #2

- Can you remember looking up to someone when you were little?
- Can you remember what you thought about your parents when you were little?
- Why do you think Jesus made time for children?

Discovery #3

- How can you prepare yourself to baby-sit kids?
- How can you help kids who have a hard time with their parents leaving?
- What are some important things to remember when you're caring for kids?

Discovery #4

- What can you do to help prepare yourself to handle emergency situations?
- What can you do to stay calm during emergency situations?
- Have you ever been in an emergency situation? How did you handle it? How did the people around you handle it?

Discovery #5

- What have you noticed about kids in different stages of development?
- How can you learn more about different age groups?
- How can you prepare to care for kids of different ages?

Discovery #6

- Why is it so important to love children?
- How can you minister to others without being a pastor?
- What should you do if you're having a hard time loving a child you're caring for?
What should you do if a child is bothering you or annoying you?