

The Ministry of
Children's Sabbath School Leader

The children's division leaders assist in the spiritual, physical, mental and social development of the children of the church. In so doing the leader follows the example given by the Saviour when He said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:13, 14 NIV.) One who follows the injunction becomes one of Jesus' modern followers.

If you have been asked to serve the children of your church in the capacity of Sabbath School division leader, you have been chosen for a special work. Approach your responsibilities with earnest prayer and God will guide you. Consecrate your service to the Lord and you will be richly fulfilled.

Responsible to: The Children's Ministries committee

Relates Closely with: The Children's Coordinator and other children's Sabbath School division teams

Ministry Mission: Through the ministry of Sabbath School, to help children know God, to hear God's Word, and to respond appropriately; the leader fulfils the ministry mission either alone or by leading a team of volunteer teachers, depending on the size of the church

Duties of the Children's Ministries Leader:

The leader of the children's division of the Sabbath School – Beginner (Cradle Roll), Kindergarten, Primary, Junior, Earliteen – has the following responsibilities:

1. *To the Learner:* Establishes a warm accepting environment where children feel loved, accepted and free to ask questions, regardless of their race, colour, language, gender, age or education experience.
2. *To the Staff:* Recruit volunteers to serve as assistant, teacher, pianist and/or song-leader. Set up schedules and duties so that volunteers are not on call every Sabbath and so that the person leading out has ample support. Keep a list of substitute teachers who can be called on in an emergency to: affirm, train, support volunteers, mentor future leaders.
3. *For Spiritual Development:* Maintains a consistent prayer life and seeks to grow spiritually; knows Jesus as a personal Saviour and is willing to share with others what God has done for him/her. Prays and plans early in the week for the Sabbath School class that he/she will lead/teach. Encourages volunteers to attend Conference/Church sponsored training seminars.
4. *For Programme Planning and Presentation:* Traditionally is responsible for what happens in Sabbath School from beginning to end. Typically, the leader directs the entire large group learning experience, delegating responsibilities for prayer, singing and mission to others. The class teachers lead out in small group discussion of the lesson as directed by the leader. In today's Sabbath School, the leader functions as the teacher, with teacher/counsellors to lead in discussion.
5. *For Follow-up Ministries:* Arranges for the keeping of attendance records, the contacting of absent members and periodic visitation of families. Provides opportunities for children to be involved in ongoing projects that help fill the needs of shut-ins, the homeless and senior citizens.
6. *For Children's Stewardship:* Sets offering goals and reports offering totals, encourages tithing and mission offerings; organises Sabbath School investment projects.

Time Commitment: Approximately 10 hours per week

Length of Commitment: One or two years, depending on the practice of the local church

Qualifications

1. General Volunteer Ministry Qualifications:

The Children's Sabbath School Leader should have made a strong commitment to:

- Jesus Christ, and to a growing personal relationship with Him
- Christ-centred ministry to children
- The Seventh-day Adventist Church and its beliefs
- A balanced Christian lifestyle
- Teamwork and cooperative ministry under the leadership of the pastor and church board
- Personal growth and learning, continually upgrading methods and skills

2. Special Qualifications for Children's Ministries

- An attitude of servant leadership
- A passion for children and children's ministries
- Leadership experience in a ministry to children