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TOWARD A MANUAL FOR EFFECTIVE TEACHING OF CHILDREN  
IN CHURCHES OF IMUETINYANOSA AND UYIOSA BAPTIST  
ASSOCIATIONS, EDO CONFERENCE

A PROJECT  
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## ABSTRACT

Manual for effective teaching of children in churches in Imuetinyanosa and Uyiosa Baptist Associations of Edo Conference is very necessary at this time. This is because children, who are gifts of God and bedrock of the church had been neglected for too long a time. Christian Teachers are not prayerfully selected and trained to teach and take care of children of the church. Many of these teachers do not have passion and empathy for children. Also, leadership and Christian qualities are lacking in some of them, while at the same time, children are restless and have short attention span. During Sunday worship services, no adequate place of worship is provided. Children are placed in some uncondusive rooms thereby making it impossible for them to have meaningful relationship with their creator God. Also, adequate teaching aids are lacking and the church is unconcerned if children are gaining any meaningful teachings from the Word of God. The Bible says "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). The researcher's intention is to train children's teachers in the two associations to be alert to their call. Three days were set aside for the training and five lessons were taught. They are: Christian Teachers and the teaching ministry of the church, understanding the child, teaching methods and teaching aids, time management in children worship service and worship environment. Pre-test questionnaire was administered to test the knowledge of Christian teachers before the training and a post-test questionnaire was also administered after the training to test their present level. The results of the findings showed that a teaching manual was necessary to teach children's teachers as not all teachers have adequate knowledge of what it takes to bring children to the knowledge of God. The Bible, even though contains all necessary instructions, a manual is still relevant as it teaches various methods of teaching children, various teaching aids and the right worship environment. Also time management was relevant to enable teachers develop interest of children in worship. It is therefore recommended that all Baptist Theological Seminaries and Colleges of Theologies should have children's department and well structured curriculum that would train pastors for children's ministry. Also, Baptist churches should call trained children's pastors for children department of their churches.

Definition of Terms

## CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Children and Learning

General Concepts of Teaching

Tools for Effective Teaching

Methods of Teaching Children

The Role of Teachers in the Teaching

## Conclusion

The Bible is very clear on the teaching of children in the church. Prov. 22: 6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Also, it gave instruction on how to train children. The Shema which is found in Deut. 6: 4 – 9 says "hear O. Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. It shall be as frontlet between your eyes. You shall write them on the door-posts of your house and on your gates" (NIV). Therefore, parents, Christian children teachers and the church must take seriously the teaching of children (2 – 12 yrs old). The duty of the church is to ensure that children who come to worship should be born again. Children are capable of gaining salvation. Good teaching will transform them thereby, helping them shun societal evil and become good citizens of the nation.

## Recommendation

The following recommendations are given to ensure effective teaching of children in churches. The church should prayerfully select and appoint born again men and women with good character and personality to teach children in children department.

This is because children need the best of hands, attention and care.

Children ministry is a call on its own. Therefore, careful selection should be made while choosing teachers for the children department of the church. This is because, children need to be saved and have knowledge of Jesus Christ. A teacher with a call and passion for children ministry would affect children positively.

All children teachers in churches of the Nigerian Baptist Convention should be made to go through relevant training sessions before teaching children. This is necessary because many of the teachers do not have formal teaching qualifications. Those that have may not have the passion and Christian skills that would enable them to be effective in the teaching of children in churches. Children need Biblical teachings that would give them solid Christian foundation.

Churches should appropriately budget for children's department. Adequate finance will make it possible for various teaching aids like televisions, whiteboard, DVD, CD, projectors, charts and pictures to be made available for children use. Children learn through their five senses of seeing, hearing, feeling, smell and taste.

The church should provide good worship centers that would enable children experience meaningful worship. Children can worship God just as adults do, therefore, every facility that is necessary for worship be put in place. A good worship center is a witnessing point for unbelieving children, and even parents. The children

of today are the adults of tomorrow. Every effort should be made to bring them into the church so that they can be saved. Children can be saved and should be saved.

The society that we live in is full of many vices. There is cultism in schools. There are armed robberies, wanton killings, kidnapping, rituals and many other vices. If these vices are to be curbed, the church should take the lead and be the place for solution. Therefore, children should be trained in the church as enjoined by the Word of God (Pro. 22: 6, Deut. 6: 4-9). A transformed life brings about a transformed society.

Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminaries and Colleges of Theology should have children department and well structured curriculum that would train pastors for children ministry. The pastors that would be trained should be called children ministers as others like music minister, missiologist and so on. So far our seminaries and colleges of theologies only train pastors for adults in churches and not children.

Every church should call a minister for children just as they call a minister for the adult. Such a minister must have gone through ministerial training according to the curriculum drawn up by our theological institutions. Just hand-picking children teachers is not good enough.