

Segment Ideas

Here are some ideas from experienced Cubbie directors that may come in handy.

You may want to assign activities to different leaders or teams of leaders to prepare and lead. See sample assignment sheet. Some churches assign a week, month or unit at a time. This is up to your discretion. You may want to use a lesson planner for each week, so you and all leaders know upcoming plans. See sample lesson planner.

Coming-in Time

1. Decorate a box to hold toys that come from home. The toys can become a distraction, get misplaced, broken or lost. This is a safe place to keep them until time to go home.
2. Place reusable adhesive on the backs of photos of Cubbies. Place these on attendance charts, cubicles or the Cubbies' seats at the tables. By using removable adhesive, photos can be removed and used over and over again.
3. Use clear contact paper to make name tags that will last a long time. You also can use this material to draw place settings on, which you can use to practice setting the table. It also makes great personal Story Time sitting mats.
4. Laminating a piece of construction paper turns it into a gluing sheet. Wipe it off when done and it will be ready for next time.
5. Turn an empty baby wipe or similar container into a chalkboard by attaching a sheet of self adhering chalkboard paper (found at teaching supplies stores) to the lid. Inside the container, place a piece of white or colored chalk and a felt square to use as an eraser. You also could use magnetic paint to make almost anything into a magnetic surface.
6. Turn a tabletop into a large flannel board by attaching felt to the tabletop. Have a variety of felt shapes, numbers, letters, animals, and flowers available for children to build their own scene. This is especially great when learning creation lessons. These supplies can be obtained at most craft and hobby stores.
7. Use round foam to make pads that look like cookies. Attach an "A" or "C" sticker to each one. Ask Cubbies to place them on a cookie tray made from laminated paper. Cubbies can use spatulas to remove the cookies and place them in an unbreakable cookie jar. Store them in the cookie jar. Practice saying the "A" and "C" verses as they remove the cookies from the tray.
8. Hide objects that complement and correlate with a lesson. As Cubbies find the objects, share how they relate to the lesson. This also is great to use during Going-home Time.

Starting Time and Story Time

Let's look at some things you could do during Starting Time and Story Time. You can lead the Cubbies in saying their key verse, motto and singing the Cubbies Theme Song. Ensure that the puppets and other resources are ready for the leaders. Participate actively in the worship time. Always be ready and available to answer Cubbies' questions about the gospel.

1. Special events: Make a birthday cake by covering a plastic container's top and bottom separately with white contact paper or construction paper. Add birthday stickers around the sides and top. Inside the container place appropriate toys or treats for a birthday child. See the *Awana Ministry Guide* for age-appropriate ideas. Make four or five slits in the covered top and insert birthday candles. Call the child up front and sing Happy Birthday, pretend to blow out the unlit candles and then open the top to reveal prizes. Allow the child to choose one. Place the chosen prize aside for safe keeping, making sure to send it home at the end of club.
2. Song time: Explain and use words Cubbies are familiar with. In one club, a Cubbie kept requesting they sing the "Tuesday Song" at club. The Cubbie's parent shared that the child also wanted to sing the song at home and in the car. The Cubbie leaders could not figure out what the "Tuesday Song" was for several weeks until during one meeting they were singing I have the joy, joy, joy down in my heart to stay ... and the Cubbie yelled out in glee, "Yea, the Tuesday song." Help Cubbies to understand words in new songs you sing. This will improve their learning and comprehension.
3. Instruct and encourage the teaching leader to use his or her preferences and teaching style. Additionally, encourage variety.
4. Try to gear lessons to age appropriate needs. Using Cubbie Bear and his friends will help a great deal with this, so be sure to look over the puppet script and the story in the Cubbies handbook. Both will show you how to make lessons practical for Cubbies.
5. Another good idea is to pass around an item for each Cubbie to touch. An example would be to pass around bread and fish when telling the story of the little boy sharing his lunch with Jesus.
6. Record or purchase an audio version of the Bible lesson and play it for them.
7. Acting out a lesson is helpful, especially when a Bible story has lots of action and movement.
8. Be sure to include sights, smells, emotions, sounds and movement in lessons. Cubbies are sensory learners so this is critical for the greatest learning.
9. Practice and know the lesson well enough that you will not need to read it. Make sure that what you are planning to do works by trying it out ahead of time.

10. Cover a large round container such as an ice cream bucket with paper. Choose paper that will make it look like a honey pot or tree. Cover the lid and the bottom separately. Cubbie Bear and his friends can live inside the tree or pot, coming out and then going back when not in use.
11. The song leader should start with active songs to help Cubbies get their wiggles out. Song time can end with songs that deal directly with the lesson. This will help set the stage for the Bible story. Cubbies enjoy repetition so choose three or four songs to sing. Cubbies also do well with routine so consider having the same song to start and end each Starting Time.
12. Make up songs, poems and finger plays set to familiar tunes and rhythms that reinforce or tell a lesson. For example, when telling the Christmas story of the wise men coming to worship baby Jesus, use the tune to "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" for the following words: Twinkle, twinkle Holy Star, Shining high and oh so far. Holy Star for wise men to see, how amazing God can be. Twinkle, twinkle star so bright, Shining on that special night. Or, for a lesson on Noah sing these words to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me": Noah stayed inside the ark, God the Father told him to. Forty days it rained and poured, they were safe inside always. Yes, they were dry; yes, they had food; yes, they were thankful; the Bible tells me so.

Book Time

1. Use directed repetition when teaching verses. For instance, have all Cubbies repeat a verse like a grandma, an old man or in an opera voice. Have them repeat the verse in their loud and soft voice as well as their fast and slow voice. Allow Cubbies to take turns saying the verse and having all the Cubbies repeat it back just like it was said.
2. A great way to reinforce a verse is to use interval reinforcement. This means practicing a verse while doing something else. This is built right into the Cubbies Celebration Lessons during Coming-in Time, Starting Time, Story Time and the other segments. Follow suggestions in your lessons.
3. Share with your leaders how to use multi-sensory ideas to teach and reinforce verses. This helps the Cubbies to internalize verses. An example would be to cut out colored shapes to represent words. Laminate them for durability. Use them to place on the table for each word in a verse. Consider using blocks, having one word per block. As a Cubbie builds with the blocks, have him say each word as he places a block. You can also use stacking cups by asking a Cubbie to say a word each time he stacks a cup. You could pass an object around your small group at the table as a verse is recited. Think of things preschoolers like to do and use those things to help them stay on task as they repeat verses.
4. Have folders, notebooks, containers or large envelopes with items leaders will need for Book Time. They will need achievement cards for their Cubbies, pens, pencils, Cubbies note pads, pages of stickers (Cubbie Bear, Ern E. Luv E., apple, special day) and sets of hand stamps. Consider having items that can be used to teach the Bear Hugs, as mentioned.
5. Do you need help preparing Book Time activity pages before club? Look to seniors who may not want to commit to coming to club but would be happy to help prepare activity pages, Coming-in Time activities, etc. Often they are great prayer warriors as well. Seek their help in praying (before, during and after each meeting) for your Cubbies, families and club.

Play Time

During Play Time, reinforce directions by the leader. Help where you can and, above all, cheer! Have fun whether you are flying across the room like a butterfly or following a Cubbie in a game of Follow-the-Leader. Have back-up games available in case you need them. Good games are: Follow-the-Leader, Cubbie Bear says, and games from previous lessons. Have the necessary supplies available.

If your church has decided to do snack time, the best time is after Play Time. Following Play Time, Cubbies go back to their small group room for Going-home Time. Be sure the snack is ready in the room. Remember to pray before snack time.

Going-home Time

Make up review games based on the lesson, verse or unit. Use shapes in the story, stickers and pictures. Back the items with felt or laminate. Make two of each if it will be a matching game or a series of items if it will be a sequencing game. As a child completes an activity, allow him to talk about how it relates to the unit, lesson or verse.

Miscellaneous

1. Copy all the Cubbies coloring pages in the Celebrations Lessons, enlarging them to fit an 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Place in a folder to have available as a fill-in activity if needed. Also, you could have all the Book Time activity sheets copied in a folder. There could be one folder of originals to copy, a folder with the copies or one folder with enough copies per Cubbie to work in each week.
2. Use the Award Vest Chart found in the *Awana Ministry Guide* to notify parents of upcoming events at Cubbies. Cut out and laminate Cubbie. Cut a slit in his raised hand so an index card can be inserted or use repositionable tape to attach the index card. Write on the index card what, when, and where an event is happening. Make sure the chart is affixed in a place that parents can easily see.
3. The Award Vest Chart also can be used for showing a leader's progress through the Cubbies handbook. Leaders do not wear the child's vest or receive Cubbies awards but they can work in the handbooks. This chart can be affixed to a wall in the leaders' Book Time room. Cubbies will enjoy seeing their leader do the handbook along with them. Remember, leaders must do both handbooks at the 'adult' level (entire verses) and must serve in Cubbies for at least one year to be eligible for the special Cubbies pin.

Leader Assignment Sheet

Teaching Plan: _____

Date: _____

Coming-in Time Coordinator: _____

Helpers: _____

Starting Time Coordinator: _____

Helpers: _____

Story Time Coordinator: _____

Helpers: _____

Book Time Coordinator: _____

Helpers: _____

Play Time Coordinator: _____

Helpers: _____
