

21 Basic Principles of Pastoral Care of Children

Primary prerequisite: love children and be willing to get involved with them in appropriate ways.

Establish your _____ as a pastor with children.

Initiate _____ with children in crisis since only rarely will they seek you out.

Establish a communication _____ to obtain information about children's needs and crises.

Develop personal _____ with children before crises occur.

Be aware that almost every time _____ are in crisis their children are also.

Despite parents tendencies to respond for their children, speak _____ and affirmingly to children.

Consider inviting _____ children to your office for a visit.

Initiate communication with children at weddings, funerals, or other events where children find themselves in _____ surroundings.

Intentionally arrange for conversations in settings _____ to the child. Get on their turf.

Seek _____ consent before arranging to meet with a child and keep them informed about the place and the amount of time you want to spend with their child.

Always leave _____ open.

The _____ of time spent with a child varies according to developmental stages. Stay as long as something _____ is happening.

Referrals should be considered in the context of _____ and responsible _____.

Continue to _____ with a child even after a referral has been made.

Children will not appreciate _____ until they invite you into their territory.

Close the _____ distance between yourself and children by kneeling, _____ to their level, or inviting them to side beside you.

Relieve children's anxiety by focusing on something _____ of themselves.
Initiate a shared activity.

Find ways to relieve parents' anxiety about how their child responds to _____.

Children handle a crisis more effectively when they are given the _____ necessary to understand it.

Be willing to examine your own childhood traumas and thus be better equipped to facilitate a child's response to _____ without becoming overly anxious and overwhelmed yourself.