

Welcoming Ministry Environments

Harmony Hensley

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Overview

- ❑ Environment shapes behavior
- ❑ Experience Design
- ❑ Accessibility
- ❑ Space Planning & Sensory Issues
- ❑ Low Budget Tips to Transform Spaces
- ❑ Planning for the Future

Environments

- Environment shapes behavior
 - ▣ Movie Theater
 - ▣ Amusement Park
 - ▣ Classroom

- What kind of behavior does your environment encourage?
 - ▣ Visual Clutter
 - ▣ Loud Noise

Experience Design

- Setting the table
 - ▣ What will show the extravagant love of God to...
 - The Guest
 - Who is your guest?
 - The Parent
 - The Family
 - Making space for the professional
 - Setting everyone up for success
 - The Volunteer
 - The Community
 - The Vendor

Accessibility

- Getting in the door – Literally
 - ▣ ADA – American’s with Disabilities Act
 - Old Construction – Pre –ADA
 - New Construction & Renovations
 - ▣ Recruit an Architect – An Evangelism Opportunity
 - ▣ Transportation
 - Are you on the bus line?
 - How are your curbs cut?
 - How many Accessible Parking Spaces do you have?

Accessibility

- ▣ Designing your space with those who have physical disabilities in mind
 - Take your team for a stroll through your facility in a wheel chair for perspective
 - Signage – is it visible from their vantage point?
 - Hallways – how tight is the turning radius?
 - Do you have automated door openers?
 - Elevators
 - Do you have them?
 - Where are they located?

Accessibility

- ▣ Where are your accessible parking spaces in relation to your Main Entrance and your Children's Ministry Entrance?



Accessibility

- Notice wide hallways for ease of movement



Accessibility

- Exterior signage to denote Elevator Access



Space Planning & Sensory Issues

- Planning for kids with Hidden Disabilities
 - ▣ Lighting
 - Incandescent vs. Fluorescent
 - Light Filters & Lamps
 - ▣ Color
 - Saturated Primary Colors vs. Jewel Tones
 - Small Color Palette
 - ▣ Visual Clutter
 - Signage
 - Communication with Pictures

Space Planning & Sensory Issues:

- Utilize Signage with pictures for those who think in pictures



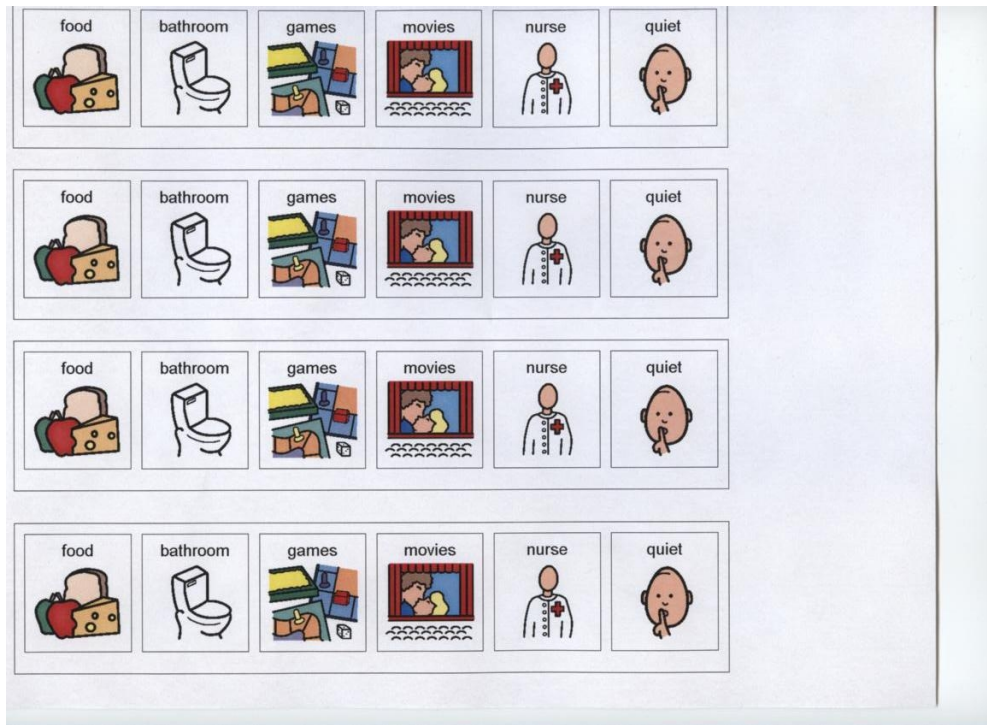
Space Planning & Sensory Issues:

- Open Check-in Area with Neutral Tones and plotter images to reduce visual clutter



Space Planning & Sensory Issues:

- Communication Keys used to enhance volunteer name tags



Space Planning & Sensory Issues:

□ Sound

▣ Acoustics

- Window Treatments
- Carpet Tiles vs. Hard Surface Flooring

▣ Touch

- Not everyone likes to be touched
- Comfortable Seating
- Fidget Toys – Great tool – but not for everyone
 - www.therapyshoppe.com

Low Budget Tips

- Best buys to transform your space
 - ▣ Paint
 - ▣ Classroom Light Filters
 - ▣ Window Treatments
 - ▣ Plotter Images to reduce visual clutter
 - ▣ Bean Bag Chairs & Oversized Pillows
 - ▣ Sensory Bins (Beans, Beads & Bubbles)
 - ▣ Clocks – Don't forget the clocks!!!
 - ▣ Carpet Squares & Remnants
 - ▣ Visual Schedules – Pictures, Pictures, Pictures!!!

Planning for the Future

- If you build it – they will come!
 - Preparing families for new spaces & new places
 - The Golden Ticket – Easing the transition
 - Social Stories
 - Partnering for the Plan
 - Working with Parents & Kids to design new spaces & prepare for transitions

Planning for the Future

- Create a “Wish List” for ministry supporters
- New Construction
 - ▣ Self contained classrooms & sensory rooms
 - ▣ Accessibility
 - ▣ Proximity to Exits
 - ▣ Acoustics & Lighting
 - ▣ Pod Designs
 - ▣ Universal Design
 - ▣ Room to Grow!

Planning for the Future



- Consider creating space for therapy equipment such as a sensory swing

Planning for the Future

- Renovate, Remodel & Renew
 - ▣ Room Selection & Usability
 - ▣ Fabrics & Finishes
 - ▣ Updated Signage
 - ▣ Room to grow!!!

Key Ministry: How Can We Serve You?

Key Ministry Foundation www.keyministry.org provides resources to churches **free of charge:**

- Best Practices Resource Kit on CD-ROM
- Web-based resources
- Opportunities to network with other churches
- Phone consultation
- On-site consultation, training
- Celebrating your successes
- Local and National conferences
- *Praying for you*



**Provides FREE training,
consultation, resources and
support to help churches serve,
welcome and include families of
kids with hidden disabilities**

Stay in Touch!

A Reckless Pursuit...My Blog: <http://arecklesspursuit.wordpress.com/>

Church4EveryChild...Dr. Steve Grcevich's Key Ministry Blog:

<http://drgrcevich.wordpress.com>

Diving For Pearls...Katie Wetherbee's Key Ministry Blog

<http://katiewetherbee.wordpress.com>



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Please Stay in Touch!

Key Ministry

8401 Chagrin Road, Suite 14B

Chagrin Falls OH 44023

Phone: 440/247.0083

harmony@keyministry.org

www.keyministry.org

