

# 12 Best Practices of Sparks

## Presenter Notes

1. Powerful Prayer
  - Pray for the children
  - Pray for each other
  - Monthly meeting with leaders
    - Pray
    - Plan
    - Prepare
2. Planned Pre-Session
  - Focused activities
  - Check-in / Dues
  - Color sashes (to mark color team)
  - Handbook basket
3. Orderly Opening
  - Start on time
  - Flag ceremony (use Sparky flag bearers)
    - Sharp
    - Teach respect for flags and country
  - Sparky yell (**Who are we?** Sparks! **Who for?** Jesus! **What to do?** Light the world!)
  - Sparky puppet
  - Intentional recognition of guests – stickers
  - Leaders working as a team (jobs for each leader)
4. Vibrant Lessons
  - Yearly plan
  - Visuals (no object lessons - they don't understand symbolism until 3<sup>rd</sup> grade)
  - Exciting delivery – teach, bring home a truth that sticks
  - Quiet seat award
5. Inspiring Motivation
  - Teach HOW to memorize
  - Helps for learning books of the Bible (CD, songs, memory tricks, mneumonics)
  - Handbook CD (encourage use of this)
  - Clip chart
  - Marble jar
6. Energetic Games
  - FUN, but not too intense
  - Not too complicated
  - Appropriate for young kids
    - Begin with simple games because of children moving up from Cubbies
    - Kids are not as finely tuned in motor skills yet as 3-6<sup>th</sup> graders
  - Leaders helping on the line
    - Don't try to run game time with only a game director
    - 2 leaders on every line. One at the beginning to help explain the rules; one at the end to encourage and cheer and high five the child who just finished
  - Every child participating

- Be sensitive to new Kindergarten clubbers. Give a couple weeks to watch if they ask for it.
  - Firmly but kindly tell a timid child, I'm going with you this time – here we go!
  - If children are allowed to sit out of games indefinitely, you'll have an epidemic of kids not wanting to play, resulting in discipline problems.
7. Awesome Awards Time
- Make it a special recognition
    - Child's name is called; stand or come forward, or walk down a red carpet
  - Cheers, high 5's
  - Sparky suitcase (pick a trinket when book is completed before the end of year Awards Night)
  - Best way to award jewels
    - Each leader has jewels in leader notebook. Give jewel when earned.
    - Announce child's name and give recognition of jewel at Awards Time
  - Celebrate birthdays
  - Cookie bucket (send home with different child each week; instructions of how many cookies to bring, and no peanuts or tree nuts)
  - Parents picking up children at end of Awards Time
8. Productive Handbook Time
- Consider it your ministry
  - Leader notebook
  - Keep records as you go
  - Rotate after 5 minutes or 2 sections
  - Use every second of time / teach a new section / teach the meaning
  - Keep good discipline
9. Organized Records
- One Year Achievement
  - Handbook Time Sheet
  - Three Year Achievement
10. Ample Communication
- With parents - letters, Parent Guide
  - With leaders – Staff Manual
  - With children – special event flyers
11. Proficient Leaders
- Trained and in uniform
  - Follow memorization standards
  - Concern for children's spiritual welfare
12. Dynamic Themes
- Drive in Movie Night
  - Under the Big Top
  - 12 for 12 contest (12 oz pop earned for reciting 12 sections in 6 weeks time)
  - Duct Tape Night

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# Best Practices of Sparks

1

## Powerful Prayer

- Pray for the children
- Pray for each other
- Monthly meeting with leaders

2

## Planned Pre-Session

- Focused activities
- Check-in / Dues
- Color sashes
- Handbook baskets

3

## Orderly Opening

- On time
- Flag ceremony
- Sparky yell
- Sparky puppet
- Recognition of guests
- Leaders working as a team

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## Vibrant Lessons

- Yearly plan
- Visuals
- Exciting delivery
- Quiet seat award

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## Inspiring Motivation

- Teach how to memorize
- Helps for learning books of Bible
- Handbook CD
- Clip Chart
- Marble jar

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## Energetic Games

- FUN, but not too intense
- Not too complicated
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- Leaders helping on the line
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### **Awesome Awards Time**

- Make it a special recognition
- Cheers, high 5's
- Sparky suitcase
- Best way to award jewels
- Celebrate birthdays
- Cookie Bucket

### **Productive Handbook Time**

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- Consider it your ministry
- Leader notebook
- Keep records as you go
- Rotate after 5 min or 2 sections
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### **Organized Records**

- One Year Achievement
- Handbook Time Sheet
- Three Year Achievement

### **Ample Communication**

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- With parents - letters, Parent Guide
- With leaders – Staff Manual
- With children – special event flyers

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### **Proficient Leaders**

- Trained and in uniform
- Follow memorization standards
- Concern for children's spiritual welfare

### **Dynamic Themes**

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- Drive in Movie Night
- Under the Big Top
- 12 for 12 contest
- Duct Tape Night