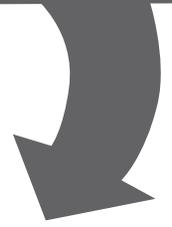


# It's the Little Things That Count



“Practice hospitality”  
(Romans 12:13b).

- What is your definition of *hospitality*?
- How can you practice hospitality in your ministry?



## ▼ Training Session

Imagine going to work in the following situation.

No one greets you when you arrive. In fact, no one seems to even know your name. The chair they tell you to sit in is too small. The walls are empty and drab. The air is a little too chilly or quite muggy. You're told to write your name on a paper, but the pencil has no point. You don't understand all the directions, but by now you're too intimidated to ask questions. You wish you could just disappear.

Sounds awful, doesn't it? Would you ever want to go back to such a place? Probably not.

So why would a child want to go back to Sunday school?

The good news is that most Sunday school classrooms are anything *but* unwelcoming, drab, or inadequately resourced.

But some are—so it's wise to think about your classroom from a child's perspective.

Are the walls bright and cheery? Do the games have all the pieces they need? Do balls hold air? Are markers in working order? Do pencils have points? Are chairs comfortable? These are all the little things that add up to create a big, engaging environment for kids.

If your space needs work, invite kids to help you make changes. Not only will they have some fun ideas, but they'll also feel ownership of their environment.

But maybe you don't *have* a room. Your church rents classrooms, or your home church has just a garage available. No problem!

Just ask your kids to *imagine* the perfect room. Kids are imagination experts! They won't have any trouble pretending the room is just right.

Remember: *You're* the greatest environment-maker in your classroom! Greet each child by name, smile, laugh—show kids you're happy to be their teacher. Your welcoming attitude and genuine

love can make even a garage warm and welcoming.



## Take this training deeper as you think over these questions:

- How inviting is your ministry space? Would you want to be there every week if you were a child?
- What steps do you need to take to make your space more inviting?

### ▼ Journal

*Lord, help me have the eyes of a child. Help me to remember what works for kids and what doesn't. Guide me as I think about making these changes. . .*

**You're creative. You're fun. If you weren't, you wouldn't be teaching kids. Let some of that fun and creativity shine through as you look at ways to make your ministry space more inviting.**

### ▼ Application

Pretend you're one of the kids in your class. No, *really* pretend. Get down at your kids' level to view your room. If you teach younger children, that means we want you to start in the hallway and literally crawl through your classroom to see the room as your students do. If you teach older kids, sit in a rolling chair as you observe the room from their standpoint.

What do you see? Are the pictures too high for little ones to see? Are the chairs too small for your kids? Go through every part of your room and supplies, making notes as if you were one of your own students. Then make a list of what changes you think need to be made. And remember, enlist the help of your students as you plan and dream.