

Especially for Cubbies Leaders

Find the Especially for Cubbies Leaders interactive training module under the Club Specific category at awana.org/clubclinic.

Welcome to Cubbies!

Cubbies is the Awana club for Preschool children two years prior to kindergarten. As part of a comprehensive strategy for raising Modern-Day Josephs, the Cubbies program celebrates the spiritual potential of preschoolers by laying a foundation of **respect** for God, His Son and His Word.

Characteristics of Preschoolers

Spiritually – Once they hear about God and His awesomeness, preschoolers can develop a respect for Him and His authority.

Mentally – They are eager learners. They love to ask questions and to watch and observe everything around them. They learn best through repetition.

Socially – They are learning to play with others around them; therefore, they often need guidance in sharing with others and taking turns.

Physically – They are energetic and easily excited.

Emotionally – Preschoolers are eager for the approval of adults. Encourage children when they are well-behaved and do what you ask.



Application

Based on the unique ways that preschoolers learn and interact, Cubbies incorporates strategies into club to set children up for success!

Total Time Teaching

Because preschoolers learn through repetition we use a method called Total Time Teaching. This means that everything we do at club – the games, the crafts, the memory verses, even the snacks – all reinforce the Bible lesson for that club meeting. Doing this increases learning retention for preschoolers. The Cubbies teaching plans guide Cubbies leaders in coordinating an entire club meeting around a biblical theme.

Cubbie Bear Buddy Levels

Since preschoolers respond best when expectations are clear, Cubbie Bear Buddy Levels are guidelines that communicate how children are to behave during club segments.

- 1 Cubbies should be quiet and attentive, raising their hands before speaking.
- 2 Cubbies may talk quietly.
- 3 Cubbies can be noisy, jump and play!

A Cubbies Club Meeting

Preschoolers can hardly wait for their next Cubbies club meeting. Whether it's the fun puppets, the exciting games or all their friends, they simply love Cubbies. Let's take a look at the three core segments of a Cubbies club.

Lesson Time

Overview

During Lesson Time all Cubbies and leaders gather together to learn about God, His Word, and His Son, Jesus Christ. Lesson Time can include a puppet show, songs and, of course, an engaging Bible lesson.

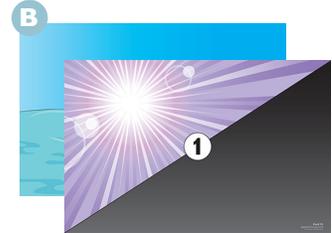
A Leader's Role

- Participate by sitting with the children.
- Encourage Cubbies to respond to questions.
- Reinforce the theme of respect.
- Be enthusiastic by laughing and singing with the children and demonstrate your love for God and His Word.

Resources

A. Cubbies Teaching Plans: Teaching plans guide leaders in teaching an age-appropriate Bible lesson to children. In addition, the plans include optional ideas for all club segments that incorporate that same biblical theme throughout club. Also included is a CD packed with resources to cut down your prep time!

B. Cubbies Teaching Cards: Colorful teaching cards provide leaders with visual aids to help children engage with the Bible characters and events during Lesson Time (also available as digital images).



Handbook Time

Overview

Handbook Time is where relationships are built and discipleship happens. During this time, leaders and Cubbies gather together in small groups.

A Leader's Role

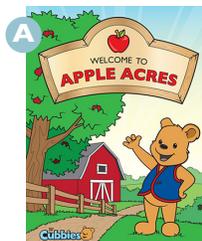
- Reinforce the Bible lesson.
- Ask and answer questions.
- Work with Cubbies to recite their memory verse.

Handbook Time Leader Sheets are available to assist leaders with suggested discussion questions and activity options that reinforce the truths of the Bible lesson and verse. This reproducible Leader Sheet is available on the teaching plans resource CD.

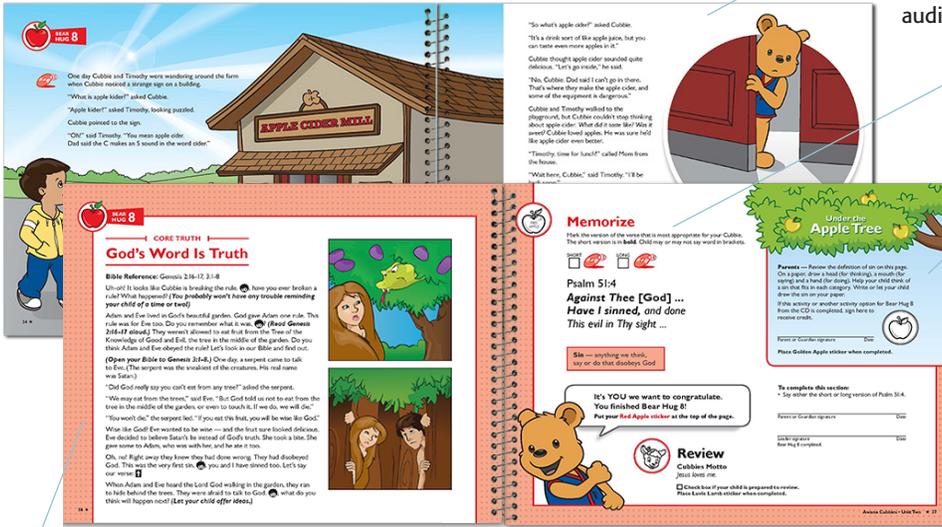
Resources

A. Apple Acres Entrance Booklet: On a child's first night of Cubbies, he should receive an *Apple Acres* entrance booklet during handbook time. *Apple Acres* features an illustrated story that introduces kids and parents to the Cubbies club and the gospel.

B. AppleSeed and HoneyComb Handbooks: Handbooks are the heart of the Cubbies program. Creative learning activities encourage parent-child interaction at home. Weekly Bear Hugs include memory verses and activities that teach basic truths about God.



Let's take a look inside the *AppleSeed* handbook!



Character Story: A character story follows the adventures of Timothy and his friends on Apple Acres farm. Parents can read this story to their child at home or listen to the story using the audio CD.

Memory Verse: This portion of the Bear Hug lists the bible verse to memorize. Parents can choose either the long or short version of the verse for their child to say at club.

Extra Credit: Cubbies can complete Under the Apple Tree and say a review verse for extra credit.

Handbooks are a great resource for partnering with parents. Since most parents of preschoolers are new to parenting, the handbooks are a simple way for the church to equip and train them to begin taking the primary role in the spiritual discipleship of their children.

Bible Lesson: Each Bear Hug contains a bible lesson for parents to read and discuss with their child at home. This lesson will be reinforced at club.



For each accomplishment, Cubbies earn stickers to place in their handbook!

Uniforms and Awards

Uniforms, for both leaders and Cubbies, are an important part of club because they display achievement awards and create a sense of community. Leaders in uniform help Cubbies and parents know who is approved to be working with the kids.



Play Time

Overview

Play Time is the segment of club that is designed to allow Cubbies to do what they do naturally - play! It is a time of non-competitive games played in a large group setting. And, like every other segment of your Cubbies club meeting, the activities reinforce the lesson for that day.

A Leader's Role

- Help explain and enforce game rules
- Give high-fives
- Encourage all children to participate
- Cheer and laugh with Cubbies

Resources

A. Cubbies Teaching Plans: Teaching plans include age-appropriate game ideas that center around the theme of that week's Bible lesson.

B. The Five-Count: The five count is a method used in large group settings to gather and quiet children. See a demonstration of the five-count in the Club Clinic module, Especially for Cubbies Leaders. Explain to Cubbies what they should do when a leader begins counting to five and use it often, especially in Play Time.



Leader Training

Awana Leadership Structure

In many ways, an Awana club is as strong as its leadership. Jesus built His church by equipping 12 men who would train others. Awana follows a similar discipleship model of multiplication. Commanders equip directors, directors equip leaders and leaders equip children and youth.

Child Protection

As part of your Awana ministry program it's important that your church leadership develop and follow a child protection plan. This plan should be developed with the help of a qualified legal attorney.

A good child protection plan should include guidelines for:

- Screening workers
- Retaining records
- Leader-to-child ratios
- A process for reporting suspected abuse

On-Going Training

Awana leader certification is just the beginning in leadership development. There are many resources available to Awana leaders for on-going spiritual growth.

Awana Ministry Conference – Each fall these local events are a perfect opportunity to meet other leaders, learn new skills and get invigorated for the new club year. Visit awana.org/amc to find the dates and locations of a conference near you.

Awana Leader Certification

Awana is committed to providing training and resources for those who work with children and youth. There are four steps in the Awana leader certification process.





Stop and Think

What excites you most about serving preschoolers?

What questions do you still have about serving in Cubbies or being a Cubbies leader?

Share your answers with your commander or director. He or she will be able to provide you with additional information and training options for you to grow as an Awana leader. Thank you for stepping up to serve!



Resources

Cubbies Director Role Book and Cubbies Leader Role Book

Find it: awana.org/store

Preschool Pocket Guide

Find it: awana.org/store

Find answers to your Cubbies club questions at awana.community.org

Questions? Contact us at leadershiptraining@awana.org.