

preschool and children ministry certification

Presented by the
*Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and
Campbell University Divinity School*



In an effort to remove the financial and geographical barriers that often hinder individuals from continuing education opportunities in preschool and children's ministry, the Fellowship and Campbell have partnered to provide a certification course in the state of Georgia.

"If laypersons or ministers are responsible for overseeing the children's ministry, they need to know how to do that," said Janice Haywood, who directs the certification program and serves as an adjunct professor on Campbell's faculty. "They need to know how to enlist and maintain volunteers, how to counsel children about their faith commitment, how to deal with crises in a child's life, how to structure programs that give their children a balanced spiritual diet and how to encourage and equip parents to become the faith nurturers of their children."

The short-term intensive courses will be held in Atlanta, where students will gather twice a semester for three days. Classes within the certification program focus on teaching students not only how to teach, but also why they teach, what to teach, and when to teach it.

"The energy of Campbell Divinity School, the expertise of Janice, and the mission of the Fellowship will create a powerful synergy for education, theological reflection, and practical experience," said CBF's Bo Prosser. "I'm excited about what God is going to do in the midst of these gatherings."

Purpose of the Preschool and Children Ministry Certification:

- To equip church staff ministers and volunteer directors
- To understand and guide the faith development of preschoolers and children
- To minister to preschoolers, children and their families
- To design church programs and ministries to reach and nurture preschoolers, children and families
- To enlist, equip and encourage leadership for the ministry

Who can participate in the certification program?

- Preschool and children's ministers
- Youth and children's ministers
- Laypersons who are church preschool and children directors or coordinators
- Full or part-time staff ministers
- Divinity students

All participants must apply for and be admitted into the certification program.

Highlights of the curriculum:

- Gain practical knowledge about preschool and children's needs and issues
- Learn helpful, effective, and creative teaching strategies
- Explore the theological and biblical foundations for preschool and children ministry
- Discover the role and function of the effective minister
- Experience training in diagnosing needs and designing appropriate programs for preschoolers, children, and families
- Use your own ministry setting for projects, observations, and implementation of programs
- Interact with experienced preschool and children ministers



Benefits to the minister and the church:

- To improve the quality of your ministry
- To obtain credentials from a recognized educational institution
- To obtain ideas and resources from educators as well as experienced preschool and children's ministers
- To receive continuing education in the latest methods, materials and ministries
- To have the option of receiving a Master of Divinity or Master of Arts with a Preschool and Children Ministry Certification from Campbell University Divinity School
- To be mentored by an experienced preschool and children's minister

Six courses required for the certification:

Teaching Preschoolers — 2 hours (30 class hours) This course overviews the characteristics, needs, developmental theories/issues and teaching methodologies related to ministry with preschoolers and their families. The students will explore how to practically assist preschoolers and their teachers in faith formation and Bible knowledge using educational principles, methods, and learning environment that reflect an understanding of how preschoolers grow and develop.

Teaching Children — 2 hours (30 class hours) This course overviews the characteristics, needs, developmental theories/issues and teaching methodologies related to ministry with children and their families. The students will explore how to practically assist grade-school children and their teachers in faith formation and Bible knowledge using educational principles, methods, and learning environment that reflect an understanding of how children grow and develop.

Biblical and Theological Foundations for Preschool and Children's Ministry — 2 hours (30 class hours) This course is a study of biblical and theological foundations for developing and guiding a ministry with preschoolers and children. Attention is given to the development of important biblical concepts appropriate for each age level, preparation of children's sermons, conversion counseling with children, and theological evaluation of literature and resources appropriate for each age.

The Childhood Christian Educator — 2 hours (30 class hours) This course is a study of the life and work of ministers who have major responsibilities related to preschool and grade-school children's education in local churches. Vocational expectations are explored, gifts for ministry are evaluated, and approaches to various tasks are developed.

The Child, the Family, and the Congregation — 2 hours (30 class hours) In this course the students will explore the role of the family in the life of the child and the church. Attention will be given to the supportive and enabling role of the church in family ministry, especially as it relates to the children. Sociological, historical, and Biblical aspects of family will inform family ministry.

Age Group Practicum — 2 hours (90-100 clock hours in a major project guided by professor)

A Practicum is a major ministry project that can be completed after the fourth or fifth classroom course of certification. A Practicum allows participants to plan, direct, and evaluate a special program or project directly related to an area of study in the curriculum. Basically, students will be involved in a self-directed learning project under the supervision of a professor. Students complete the approved project, maintain a journal and record of significant learning experiences, and prepare a summary report following course guidelines.

Learn

To learn more about the certification program, call (800) 352-8741 or go to www.thefellowship.info/certification.

