



WHAT IS THE PARENT'S ROLE IN AWANA?

How can parents help their children succeed in the Awana ministry? Here are few things every parent should do to help make Awana effective in their family.

1. Be sure your child is on time. We always start on time. Please make every effort to get here.
2. Our leaders like their sleep. Please pick up your child on time as well. We love that there is time for fellowship after Wednesday services. However, please pick up children first, then visit.
3. Be sure your child wears their uniform and **BRINGS THEIR HANDBOOK** and bags! So often, children show up without a handbook. It is impossible to manage without it.
4. We strongly urge that kids wear gym shoes. It's hard to run around the game circle in flip-flops or snow boots.
5. Working with your child in their handbook just 10 minutes a day will help most kids finish 2 sections each week. (The pace needed to complete a handbook by the end of the Awana year.)
6. Complete the Parent Pages in the Handbooks. All handbooks have sections that require parent signatures. As you work with your child from week to week, watch for those sections, and be sure to sign them!
7. Help your child learn the material in the Handbook Sections. This is the single most important thing you can do. Remember – we do not teach the handbook sections at club. The children come to club prepared to recite the material in the section. When a child arrives at club without any preparation, he/she is less likely to earn awards.
8. Pray for the Awana leadership team.

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD MEMORIZE HANDBOOK SECTIONS

At Awana, we believe that parents are the true spiritual leaders of their children, and that primary learning happens at home. That's why Awana is the perfect tool for you to use in spending valuable time with your kids, even just 10 minutes at bedtime. Our experience has been that kids whose parents study along with them are happiest and most successful at Awana. Clubbbers who come prepared with at least two sections each week will be on track to finish their handbooks in a year and earn impressive book awards.

Awana makes it easy for parents to train their children up in the way they should go, because the entire curriculum is laid out. There are Parent Handbooks which are available to purchase through AWANA. These handbooks match clubber's handbooks and make a great way to study together as a family. See the AWANA Commander or your child's AWANA leader for more information about these books.

Tip #1

Let your children see YOU memorizing Bible verses. Parents are the strongest role models in children's lives. What they see you doing makes a huge impact on them. When your children are working on a memory verse, you can memorize the same one. Let them see you working on it. Recite for them, and they can recite for you! This is the number one best way to teach your kids their verses.

Tip #2

Be sure your child understands the verse. There are lots of big words in the Bible verses. Help your child understand the general meaning of the verse, and the specific meaning of the words.

Tip #3

Children learn by repetition. The more often a Bible verse is used and recalled the better a child will remember and apply it. That's why short DAILY efforts are so much more valuable than occasional longer times. 10 minutes a day, 5 days a week, will accomplish far more than an hour once a week.

Tip #4

Lots of kids are visual learners. Some are auditory learners. Try a variety of ways to teach the verse. Draw funny stick figures that illustrate the verse, sing the verse to a familiar tune, act it out with hand motions like a game of charades. Make the process fun!

Tip #5

Learn a little bit at a time. Learn just a few words on the first day, then repeat that on the second day and add the next phrase. Continue in this way until the child can

successfully complete the verse – for Sparks, 3-4 words at a time; for T&T 5-6 words at a time. Say aloud the Scripture reference and first phrase over and over, add next phrase (always starting from the beginning of the verse). Continue until the child can do the entire verse without help several times. Review, review, review!

Tip #6

Set a pace that your children can comfortably follow and make sure they understand what they are learning. Determine how many sections your children need to complete each week in order to finish their books by the end of the year. Generally, two sections per week is a good pace.

Tip #7

Sign your name on the end of sections when you feel that your children have the verses memorized.

Tip #8

Look up the verses in the Bible. Read the surrounding text with your child, looking for answers to the “5 W’s and H” questions (who, what, where, when, why, how). What is happening? Who said/wrote these words? Who was it said/written to? Why was it said? When/where did this happen? How did the listeners respond? Or how did the events unfold? This exercise will give the verses more meaning and will aid in remembering, understanding and applying the verses to our lives.

Tip #9

Discuss any “lessons for life” from the verses. What is it that God wants me to believe? How will I live if I really believe that? What does God want me to do? What changes do I need to make in my thinking and/or behavior? Ask your child to repeat the verse in his or her own words. Ask if he or she can think of a story or recent event that illustrates the truth of the passage they are learning. This is a great way to initiate faith conversations that will have lasting significance for you and your child.

Tip #10

As you plan and prepare for each week with your children, keep in mind that you are helping them learn to treasure God’s Word and make it part of their lives for a lifetime and for eternity. Pray, and pray regularly for your child to learn and benefit from the Bible verses in the Awana book.

PARENT HANDBOOK

Delve into God’s Word, side-by-side with your kids! Awana has optional parent handbooks that parallel what your child is studying in Sparks and T&T clubs. These handbooks give you deeper understanding of the material your child is learning. Grow

spiritually, share biblical insights with your child, and model pacing and handbook achievement with these books.