# MORE THAN ONE METHOD

**Objectives**: To understand that every single child has a different learning style. Therefore, we need to find many ways to bring our lessons across.

#### Different ways of teaching

- > Games
- > Learning through activities;
- > Using object lessons
- > Drama and mime
- > Crafts:
- > Guided conversation
- Field trips (outreach)
- Story telling
- Questions
- Discussions
- Puppets do not make the puppet teach Bible truth!!!
- > Multi-media

## Enhancing Learning in a Fun Way

- 1. God's Word encourages review (Hebrews 2:1; 2 Peter 3:1,2)
- 2. It helps to evaluate previous teaching
- 3. It reinforces good teaching
- 4. It corrects wrong ideas that the children might have

They meet some of their basic needs





- > They need activity
- > They need to achieve
- > They need to feel approval
- > They need to have new experiences
- > They need to learn how to have friendly competition

### Edgar Dale's triangle (see following page)

There are many different teaching methods. Edgar Dale made a study of effective methods of teaching and arranged ten of them in a triangle. (Look at the diagram). The methods are arranged from the most effective (1) to the least effective (10). The top of the triangle (10) shows learning based on the experiences of other people. This method is based mainly upon one-way communication and requires little effort from the child. The base of the triangle (1) shows a method of learning based on the child's experiences. The child is therefore much more involved in the learning process.

10 Words Verbal Symbols

9 Visual symbols: maps, drawings

8
Cassette recordings
pictures

7
TV, internet,
cellphones, ipods, social media etc.

6 Displays

5 Study tours

4 Demonstrations Drama presentations, puppet shows, plays etc.

2
Artificial experiences, play-acting, games etc.

1 Direct personal experience

# Asking different types of questions

The AIM is to get them talk - to give them an opportunity to participate. Research show that we retain:

- > 10% of what we read:
- > 20% of what we hear;
- > 30% of what we see.
- > 50% of what we hear & see;
- > 70% of what we hear, see & tell; and
- > 90% of what we hear, see, tell & demonstrate.

The child would say to us, "Use me or lose me".

1. Fact questions test Bible knowledge. Use about 50% of these

(Example: Who was the first man and woman on the earth?)

What did God tell them not to do?

When did they try to hide themselves?

Where did they have to go after they had sinned?

2. Spiritual truth questions aid understanding. Use about 30% of these

(Examples: Why is Jesus the only one who could die on the cross for your sin?

What is it that separates you from God?

What is a Bible verse that tells us about God's love?)

- 3. **Application questions** help the child see how the lesson affects his life. They use the word "you". Use about 20% of these
- Questions can be based on the main teaching of the lesson

(Example: Main Teaching—If you know Jesus as your Saviour, God wants you to obey Him. Question—What is one special way you can obey God this week?)

Questions may be based on the Bible verse

(Example: What can you do this week to put our verse, Ephesians 4:32, into practice?)

Questions may encourage the child to give a testimony

(Example: Who will tell me about when you trusted Jesus as your Saviour?)

#### Guidelines

Accept the student's answer if possible then give your desired answer.

(Example: You ask, "What happened after Jesus died?" You want an answer about Jesus becoming alive again. A child answers, "He was buried." You say, "That's right, but He didn't stay dead, did He? He arose from the dead and is alive today.")

Emphasise that everyone is a winner when learning about God's Word.

Write questions that start with what, who, why, when, where and how.

Write thought-provoking questions rather than questions which can be answered with "yes" or "no".

Write questions with varying levels of difficulty

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**DISCUSS** 

1.	Do you know any other methods that might help others reach children? Please feel free to share.
2.	Do you have a testimony that could encourage others? Please share.
3.	Your thoughts

# i The triangle of experience

("The Cone of Experience from Audio-Visual Methods in Teaching, Third Edition by Edgar Dale, copyright © 1969 by Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.)