

Let's Give the Kids a Hand!

(Scattered Pandemonium or Structured Participation—Part 2)

Our theme song had *great* words, but didn't excite the children. We needed a fresh way of making the song exciting. Suddenly the Lord gave us an idea—*use the “clappers” we purchased from the party supply store.* (“Clappers” are small plastic hands on a stick used for making noise.)

The idea worked! The kids stood and clapped on designated words of the song. Toward the end when one word was to be sustained, the kids held the pitch and clapped frantically until we gave the signal to stop clapping and continue singing. The kids loved the song.

Early elementary age children have lots of energy and need activity, so we've invented various uses for the “clappers.” As stated previously, it's necessary to explain how to use an object before it's given to the children.

Before distributing the clappers, one of us holds up a clapper and, in a hushed but excited voice, explains the rules then demonstrates its use. Kids love to use clappers for songs; clapping on various words of the memory verse; a team cheer; applauding the correct answer or during our “*Let's make noise!*” time after a quiet activity.

Our “clapper” rules are:

- When first given a clapper, hold it by the “hand” part with the step pointing up.
- Use the clapper *only* when instructed.
- During *silent time* the clappers are to be placed on the floor and not touched until given permission.
- If a clapper is used during *silent time* the clapper will be taken away.

Give the kids a *hand* (a “clapper”)—you'll be glad you did!