

Volunteer Suggestions in Regards to the Curriculum

We find that many of our volunteers have great ideas and resources! We'll never forget seeing a full set of armor brought in for the armor of God, or a sheep being carried down the hall when we had a sheep illustration in the lesson, or a male volunteer dressing and talking in first person to be Jonah in the whale (our story book was a pale comparison to that acting!) The children will never forget those moments either, we're sure!

However, every now and then, there are volunteers who lack good judgment or have good intentions because they used it somewhere else, but what they want to do doesn't fit Bible2School®'s Program Core Values (bringing in a real sword is a safety concern). Try to ask questions first to understand their idea better, and then decide how to respond. The question, "Tell me more about (the song you have in mind, the prop you're raving about, the idea you have, etc) opens up conversation and helps you delve deeper into their thinking and rationale behind the proposed action. As long as their idea maintains the integrity of the Scripture being taught, points back to the Think About It Question, is congruent with Bible2School's core values, and does not take away child interaction in the lesson, it's generally good to trust your gut feelings. If after asking that question something still feels off or the idea might work with some modifications, consider bringing a trusted volunteer into the conversation for a second set of listening ears. You can also reach out to Bible2School National for advice if we've seen anything similar attempted or have any wisdom and experience to add to the conversation.

If a compromise cannot be reached, we encourage you to have a heart to heart conversation with the volunteer to determine if this is a good fit. Put on your listening ears again and seek to understand where your volunteer is coming from. Be firm but loving in your communication to the volunteer about how following the curriculum upholds the integrity of the Scripture being taught and Bible2School's core values. In Matthew 10:16 Jesus encouraged his disciples to be "as wise as serpents and yet as harmless as doves". Bible2School is not immune to volunteers suggesting changes that undermine the Scriptural integrity of the lessons (we've seen it!). We can be loving (harmless as doves) while being wise and discerning (wise as serpents) in our response to these well-meaning volunteers.