



Connecting and Integrating Children's and Youth Ministries



Yale Youth Ministry Institute



Overview

Where we're headed

1. "Somebody-ing"
2. Naming the Problem
3. The "Why"
4. The "Who"
5. Breakout Discussion
6. The "How"
7. Breakout (?)
8. Closing Q&A



“Somebody-ing”

somebody, n.

1.a. A person unknown, indeterminate, or unnamed; someone, some person.

2.a. A person of some note, consequence, or importance (OED)

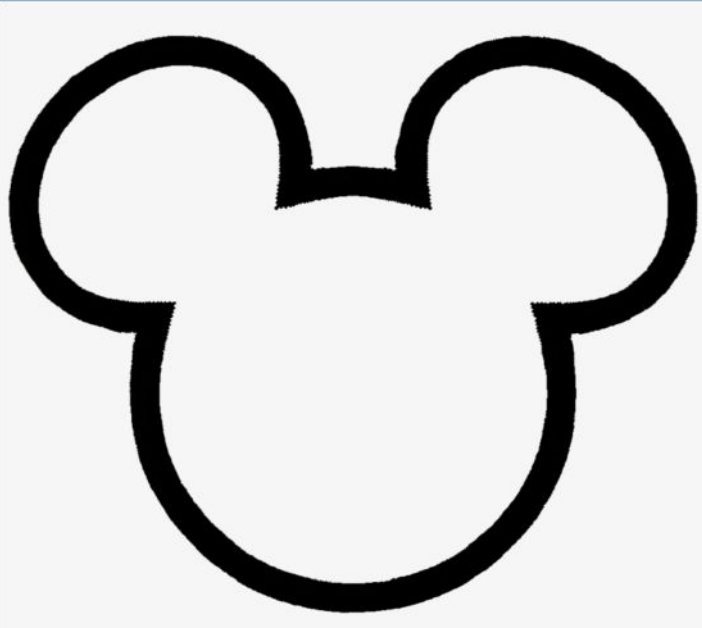
Somebody-ing, v.

The act of seeing and treating 1.a. as 2.a.;

Or, the process through which 1.a. comes to see and treat themselves as 2.a.

- How can we create places and spaces where our young people do this for themselves and each other?

The Problem



The “Why”

What one truth/understanding/orientation do you want the young people of your church to carry with them when they leave you?

- Provides a rational and a framework for bringing your ministries together
- Creates a shared social vision to enact as community
- Informs and is informed by the “Who” and “How”

The “Who”

Building a team of stakeholders:

1. Who are the people who care about young people in your church community?
2. Who is excited about helping you answer your “why” and engaging in ministry that builds towards it?
3. Inviting these people in is its own act of “somebody-ing”: you recognize their gifts and abilities, seeing them as vested and involved.



Breakout Discussion!

1. **Answering the “Why.”** What goal or vision do you already have in place / can you name right now? Who might you want to be in conversation with to shape or refine this vision? Is this vision consistent across multiple age-groups?
 1. **Answering the “Who.”** Name out loud for yourself and each other several stakeholders in your networks and what their role is.
- **Share Out** - any unexpected connections, reflections, initial inklings, any new questions that come up?

The “How”

Strategies for building and integrating children's and youth ministries in the broader church

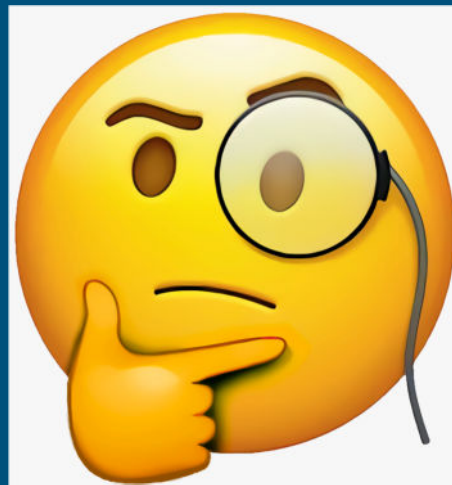
Programming

Formal Programming Across the Church

- Aligning curriculum for all ages
- Worship
- Church school
- Music
- Service

Informal Programming

- Free play movement
- Student-directed participation

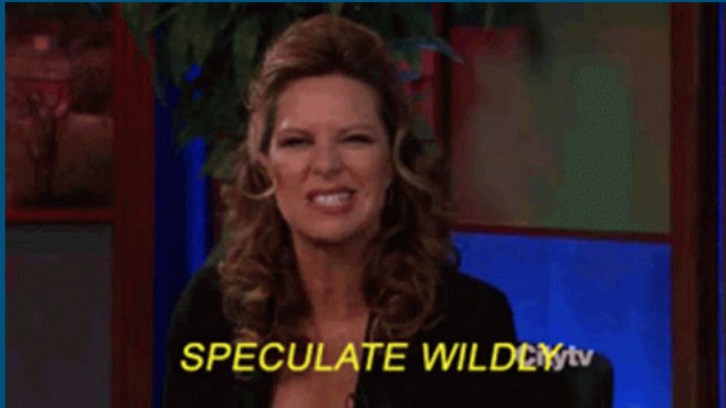


Spiritual Gifts Week

- Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12; shared across all ages, informing and informed by the “why.”
- Age-appropriate activities engaging the theme in all youth groups
- Participation from other stakeholders (the “who”): music director working with high schooler and elementary schooler on a duet for worship service
- Relay-style service project, all ages play a meaningful role and reflect on putting individual gifts to use for shared mission
- Intergenerational church school



Breakouts, again!



1. Where is this happening already in your church, in your ministry? Name this out loud for yourself and each other.
2. Slow hunch. What's a dream for your ministry that might bring together the who, why, and how that you can begin to feel out in this space? What opportunities are you beginning to speculate about?

Q & A
