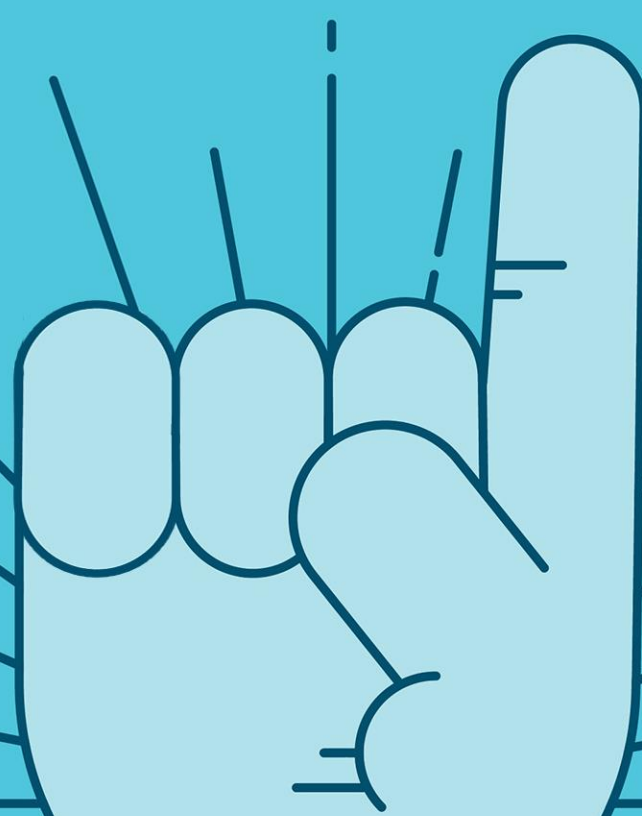


**ELEMENTARY**



**31**

**PRE  
SERVICE**

**KidMin**

**GAMES**

**AND**

**ACTIVITIES**

by **DAVID**

**RAUSCH**



A GO! Curriculum Companion



# A NOTE TO CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADERS

---

Games and Activities are a great way to welcome kids to your KidMin. Don't be mistaken, though. Those games and activities aren't just a time filler. They do more than just keep kids busy while waiting for the service to begin. With the right mix of activities, that time can make kids excited to come to church. Better yet, it motivates them to get to church ON TIME! And in turn, they motivate their parents. There have been more than a few times my kids have pushed me out the door on a Sunday morning because they didn't want to miss a single minute of activity time. Moreover, that pre-service activity time can help kids connect with each other and with their leaders. Ultimately, it's those relationships that will help kids feel like they *belong* in your KidMin and make them want to come back again and again. With that said, here are a few things to consider when choosing your games and activities:

**Choose games and activities that promote relationships.** There's nothing wrong with having a few activities that allow kids to work alone, but for the most part, try to provide activities that encourage kids to connect with each other and their leaders. If you have video games available, choose multiplayer/co-op games over single player games.

**Cycle activities in and out every 2-4 weeks.** If you have the same games and activities week after week, they lose their appeal. Switch them out in order to keep them fresh.

**Encourage your leaders to participate with the kids.** It's easy for leaders to think that play time is just for the kids. It's not! Remind your leaders that playing a game or doing an activity alongside a kid is a great way to connect with them and earn their respect.

So with no further ado, here are 31 games and activities that kids will flip for. For your convenience, many of the titles are clickable and contain links to online stores where the game or activity can be purchased.

**Artsplash 3D Liquid Art**: This toy was the winner of ABC's hit show "The Toy Box." If any of your kids watched the show, their eyes will pop when they see you have this in your KidMin. The product description describes it this way: "Use the color dyes to mix any combination of colors you want, then use the Aquapen to place the colored water onto any of the 6 different Artsheet designs!" It's only available at Toys R Us and it's sure to be super popular, so grab one fast.

Price: \$25

**Fidget Spinner Competitions**: Fidget spinners are all the rage right now! Put 4 or 5 of them in your room and create spinner challenges or competitions for the kids. For example, see who can keep the spinner spinning on one finger for the longest. See who can spin the spinner on their nose. Have the kids race to a wall and back while spinning the spinner on one finger. Or get creative and make up your own fidget spinner challenges!

Price: \$2-\$10/spinner

**Kap-It Bottle Flipping Game**: Bottle flipping can drive parents nuts, but kids still love it! Kap-It takes bottle flipping and turns it into a fast paced, strategic game that kids will flip for. (Do you see what I did there? Flip for? Genius!)

Price: \$20

**Nerf Blaster Blasting Gallery**: Build a pyramid using 10 or 15 plastic cups and create a line on the floor approximately 10 feet away with tape. See which kid can knock down the most cups with the Nerf Blaster in just 3 shots. For safety reasons, you might want to discourage kids from shooting each other.

Price: \$13 and up (depending on the Nerf Blaster.)

**Stackables**: You can put this one in the category of "so simple it's genius!" Kids love to stack things into giant walls or pyramids. If you live near a recycle store or center, look for some good stackable objects like empty 1-gallon ice cream buckets or coffee cans. If you live near a Costco or Sams, ask them if you can have their empty boxes. If you want to go smaller scale, give the kids a couple hundred plastic "Solo" cups. Allow the kids to build a giant structure, then knock it down. As simple as it is, kids often choose this activity over just about any other.

Price: Free-\$30

**Slime**: Slime is hugely popular right now. Some stores can hardly keep Elmer's glue on the shelf! Make a big batch of homemade slime and put it out for kids to play with. Click the title link for a slime recipe. If you're feeling adventurous, make a slime creation station where you provide the materials and instructions, and the kids create the slime themselves. Be sure to provide towels for clean up.

Price: \$10+ dollars (depending on how much you make.)

**Graffiti Wall**: This is a great way to help kids tap into their inner-artist! Tape a strip of butcher paper to the wall and provide markers so kids can draw and write till their hearts content. If you're concerned about the markers bleeding through the paper, double it up. You can also use chalk on black butcher block paper.

Price: \$30+ for a roll of butcher paper (or FREE if you already have the materials.)

**Pie in the Face**: This popular game is hilarious to watch and very popular with kids. In the game description: "Players load the arm with whipped cream (not included) or the included sponge, then take turns sliding their heads through the mask and spinning the spinner. But, watch out! The game unit could go off at any time giving someone a face full of whipped cream!" It's not too messy, but you'll want to have a towel handy for kids to clean up.

Price: \$14

**Bozo Buckets**: This game was made popular by the old "Bozo Show." Create a "throw line" on the floor with tape, then place 5 buckets in a row. Each bucket should be about 12 inches apart and get further from the throw line. Give a kid 5 ping pong balls. The challenge is to toss one ping pong ball into each bucket starting with the closest bucket and working your way to the furthest bucket. Click the title link for a video of the game in action.

Price: Less than \$10 (or FREE if you already have the materials.)

**Decorate a Leader**: It's as simple as it is fun! Give the kids a couple rolls of toilet paper and a leader. Tell them to create a crazy costume on the leader by wrapping them in the TP. For added fun, give the kids additional costume pieces like a wig or oversized sunglasses.

Price: FREE

**Heads Up! Kids**: This is the kid's version of the game made popular on the Ellen DeGeneres Show. It's a charades type game that utilizes a smart phone or tablet. If you want the low tech version of the same sort of game, you can buy a game called "[Hedbanz](#)."

Price: \$.99 for the app, or \$13 for "Hedbanz."

**Duct Tape Bookmarks and Bracelets**: Provide the kids with a roll of duct tape and Sharpie markers, then let them design their own bookmarks or bracelets. If you want to get fancy, you can buy designer duct tape with fun patterns.

Price: \$3.50 for a roll of duct tape. \$20 for an assortment of patterned duct tape.

**Hula Hoops**: Girls love them! A lot of boys like them too. Classic fun. 'Nuff said!

Price: Various (depending on the size and quality of the hoop.)

**Building Corner**: Kids love building things and there are a variety of great toys that let them do just that. Create a corner of the room devoted to building toys such as [Legos](#), [K-nex](#), or [Snowflake Gears](#).

Price: \$20+ (depending on the toy and quantity.)

**Crazy Forts**: It's crazy! It's a fort! It's a crazy fort! Kids can connect the balls and sticks to create a fort. When they're finished, throw a sheet over it to top it off.

Price: \$38

**3D Puzzles**: This toy will put your brain to work! It's a 3D take on the traditional puzzle. They make versions for all ages.

Price: \$6-\$20

**Remote Control Car Obstacle Course**: Remote control toys have been popular for a long time. The great news is that they've become far more affordable as the years have passed. Put an RC car in the room, but instead of just letting kids drive it around, create an obstacle course using cones, trashcans, chairs, or just about anything you can find.

Price: \$20+ (depending on the quality of the car.)

**Hot Wheels Criss Cross Crash**: Hot Wheels is another classic toy that is still popular, especially with boys. This track set has a car feeder that pushes the cars through the track. But here's where the extra fun comes in: there are 4 intersecting crash zones where cars can collide. 4 kids can put their car on the track at the same time to see which car will last the longest. The kit comes with only 1 car, so you'll need to find or buy 3 more.

Price: \$33

**Coloring Books**: Coloring books have been around for a long time, but they're not just for pre-school kids anymore. They've recently seen a huge bump in popularity for older kids and even adults. This [Emoji Coloring Book](#) is sure to be popular among elementary-aged kids. Set out some books with markers, crayons, or coloring pencils and you might be surprised the number of kids it attracts.

Price: \$4- \$10

**Giant Jenga**: If all you did was put a set of regular-sized [Jenga blocks](#) in the room, it would be a hit! But if you or someone you know is handy, try building a giant set of Jenga blocks out of 2x4 lumber. You can find instructions on how to build it [here](#).

Price: \$17 for regular Jenga, approximately \$25 for material to build giant Jenga

**Rubik's Cube Corner**: I gave up trying to solve these in the 1980's, but kids are still racking their brains to figure out the Rubik's Cube. They come in all sorts of sizes and variations now. Set out a variety of Rubik's toys on a table and watch kids go to town.

Price: \$8+/cube

**Monkey Foam**: Another great creative play toy. Here's the product description: "Squeeze it, form it, shape it! Kids will love what this foam can do. Parents will love just how quick and easy it is - simply unwrap the foam blocks, squish them up and kids will be playing and shaping in no time. Won't dry out or harden - keep on squishing and squeezing. All the fun without the mess - won't stick to furniture or carpet."

Price: \$17



**Brain Teaser Toys for Kids**: Much like the Rubik’s Cube, these brain teaser toys can keep kids busy working with their hands while they figure out the solution. It’s a great combination of problem solving and fun!

Price: \$7-\$20

**Seek and Find**: Do your kids have a favorite movie character or sports team mascot? Print out some pictures of that character or mascot, then tape the pictures in hidden locations around the room before the kids arrive. Make some of the pictures easy to find and hide some of them in more challenging locations. Challenge the kids to find ALL of the pictures before service begins.

Price: FREE

**Cardboard Box Maze and Tunnels**: Do you have some cardboard boxes sitting around your house or church? Don’t toss them out just yet. Let the kids open the boxes up, connect them to one another, then tape the seams so they make a tunnel maze. You can see a picture of one [here](#).

Price: FREE (or the cost of some cardboard boxes.)

**Perplexus Original Puzzle Ball**: Slow and steady wins the race with this game. Here’s how the product description explains it: “Inside the Perplexus Original you’ll face 22 feet worth of challenging twists, turns and obstacles! Flip twist and spin Perplexus to move the ball along the numbered path. When you fall off the track (Yes, it will happen!) head back to the start and try again.”

Price: \$24

**Minute to Win It Games**: “Minute to Win It” was a gameshow that introduced us to a whole host of quick (1-minute) challenges and party games. In short, kids love them! And a lot of them are cheap and easy to set up. For example: the Nut Stacker, where kids use a dowel rod or wooden skewer to pick up and stack as many metal nuts as they can in one minute. Click the title link to see a list of 25 “Minute to Win It” games.

Price: Various (depending on the game.)



**Giant Marker Board:** Another simple, but very effective pre-service activity. Does your church have a giant marker board on wheels? Well, what are you waiting for? Roll it into your KidMin room, stock it with an assortment of dry erase markers and let the kids get creative. If you want to, you can even organize a game of Pictionary with it.

Price: FREE (if your church already has one.)

**Jumbo Checker Rug Game:** It's just like checkers, but it's...well...jumbo. Which makes it all the more fun for the kiddos!

Price: \$17

**Knee Hockey:** With Knee Hockey, kids can be just like their favorite hockey players, but with all of their teeth! Knee Hockey is the safer, more miniature version of the real thing. Kids play on their knees, while using mini hockey sticks to shoot a foam ball into a mini hockey goal.

Price: \$40

**Indoor Skating:** If your Kidmin room has carpet, cut a bunch of wax paper pieces so that they're slightly bigger than a kid's foot. Kids can place one piece under each foot, then "skate" around the room.

Price: \$2 for a roll of wax paper

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

---



David Rausch is the founder and President of Mooblio, a dynamic organization devoted to developing resources for children’s ministries. He’s also the creator of GO!—an interactive curriculum that gets kids out of their seats and into the storytelling action. For many years prior to that, David was the Programming Director with Promiseland, the children’s ministry at Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago. David has also served as the Children’s Director at The Crossing, a multi-site church in St. Louis. His passion is for resourcing and training people to plant the Word of God in the hearts of children. When he’s not pursuing that passion, you might find David climbing a mountain or trekking through the wild places on Earth.

Email: [david@mooblio.org](mailto:david@mooblio.org)

Blog: [imdavidrausch.com](http://imdavidrausch.com)





# FREE ELEMENTARY LESSON

GO! is the wildly fun, Jesus centered curriculum for elementary and preschool kids. It takes kids on a chronological journey through the Bible and invites them to be a part of God's story. Want to give it a try? No problem! Click below to learn more and download a lesson for free.

[DOWNLOAD](#)





**GO!**

# THE **CHRONOLOGICAL** CURRICULUM THAT GETS KIDS OUT OF THEIR SEATS AND INTO THE **STORYTELLING ACTION**

**TRY IT FOR FREE**



## **JOIN THE STORY**

GO! does **interactive storytelling** like no one else! Every lesson invites kids to be a part of the Bible story in fun and creative ways.



**GO! RANKED #1 IN AN INDEPENDENT CURRICULUM REVIEW**

**FREE TRIAL**

**CLICK TO LEARN MORE ABOUT **GO!** AND SIGN UP FOR A **FREE TRIAL.****

(You'll be as happy as a gopher with a jetpack!)

[www.GoCurriculum.com](http://www.GoCurriculum.com)

