

# What are some common myths or false assumptions about weekday ministries?

**All churches need to have a weekday ministry for children.** Some churches do not have the facilities or resources for such a ministry.

**A weekday ministry can make money for the church.** Weekday ministries may need the church to supplement their income in order to make them quality ministries worthy of our Lord.

**Anyone who has reared a child can teach in child care or preschool.** Some very good parents do not work well with a group of children. Teachers need to have a heart for children and skills in teaching a group of children.

**Churches don't have to be licensed by the state.** All preschool ministries which meet for more than four hours must pass health, fire, and building regulations for the county. We recommend that church programs also get full licensing in order to assure quality.

**If our church supports child care, we are encouraging mothers to work.** If mothers are going to work or need to work, churches can respond by ministering to the needs of the children. Churches need to support parents.

**If the state licenses a church or financially supplements child care, the church cannot have religious instruction.** The licensing is for safety and quality care. Religious teaching cannot be prohibited in a church-sponsored child care.

**If a church has a weekday ministry, it is an "automatic" outreach ministry of the church.** A weekday ministry is an excellent outreach tool if the church uses it as such. It will require cultivation and visitation in order for it to be an effective outreach ministry.

**It is a ministry; therefore, it is not a business.** Good business principles are still very crucial for success.

For additional assistance and information:

Church Weekday Education  
*Childhood Ministry*  
*Disciple-Making Team*  
(800) 395-5102 ext. 5650



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# Tips for Starting a New Church Weekday Ministry

for  
Preschoolers  
and  
Children



# Why would a church consider starting a weekday ministry for preschoolers or children?

There are many reasons why a church would want to provide a weekday ministry. The primary reason needs to be:

**To provide a ministry for the community as well as for church members.**

## Some goals of a weekday ministry are:

- *To provide a safe, nurturing place for children*
- *To meet the needs of parents and children by providing quality care in a Christian environment*
- *To guide the total development of each child spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially*
- *To partner with parents in the disciplining of children*

This ministry will require the full support of the church, not just a small, interested group. It should be an integral part of the church's vision for its total ministry.

A ministry to young children should never be started to "make money" for the church. Instead, a quality ministry will keep in mind the needs of those being served. In addition, the ministry will require some financial resources from the church especially in the first few years.

# What options are available in weekday ministry?\*

- *Full-day Child Care*
- *Parents Morning Out*
- *Five-Year-Old Kindergarten*
- *Half-day Preschool*
- *Before and After school-age Child Care*
- *Christian School*

\*It is important to remember that many of these options are regulated by the state and may require a license.

# How do we determine what kind of weekday ministry our church needs to provide?

## Appoint a study committee.

Include some of the following people: deacon, building and grounds committee member, educator, senior adult leader, pastor, parent, education staff member, health care professional, and any professional with a relationship to state licensing or inspections.

**Purchase the Weekday Early Education Administrative Guide from the Child Development Education Alliance** at [www.cdealliance.org](http://www.cdealliance.org) or by calling 904-573-8831. This book will guide you through the details of starting a weekday ministry.

**Survey the community** to determine what other care is already available in the area. Determine the needs which are not being provided. Conduct surveys by telephone,

direct mail with reply cards, or flyers. Distribute the survey within your own church, other churches, community agencies, public libraries, major employers, doctor and dentist offices, and other weekday programs.

**Study your church facilities** to determine the type of ministry your church can accommodate. For state licensing of full-day child care every church must pass the health, fire, and building codes of your county. You will probably need to invest in bringing your building up to the standards required for licensing.

**Before deciding to begin a full-day preschool ministry, attend a prelicensing workshop** conducted by the state in order to learn the requirements for state licensing. Register for one of these workshops online at <http://ncchildcare.dhhs.state.nc.us/general/home.asp> or by calling 1-800-859-0829 and asking for the Child Care Training Associate.

**Present the committee findings** to the church for approval of recommendation.

**If the recommendation is approved, elect a church weekday education committee** to guide the establishment of the ministry. Guidelines for this committee are available online in Church Weekday Education resources at [www.ncbaptist.org](http://www.ncbaptist.org) or by contacting the Church Weekday Education Consultant at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.