

A Sabbath School Rating Scale*

The Place

Location and size	5	_____	
Lighting, floor, temperature	4	_____	
Furniture	4	_____	
Decor	4	_____	
Order	4	_____	
Atmosphere	4	_____	
Total	25	_____	

The Program

Organization	10	_____	
Teaching activities	15	_____	
Teaching materials	10	_____	
Total	35	_____	

The People

Staff organization	8	_____	
Staff attitudes	8	_____	
Children	8	_____	
Behavior problems	8	_____	
Staff involvement with families	8	_____	
Total	40	_____	

Total Rating 100 _____

*Prepared by Donna J. Habenicht, Ed.D.

THE PLACE

Location	<p>Easy access to church and exits</p> <p>Near restrooms (with changing area for babies and toddlers)</p>				
Size	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Beginners/Kindergarten</td> <td>20-25 square feet per child (1.4-1.7 square meters)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Primary/Junior</td> <td>15-20 square feet per child (1.2-1.5 square meters)</td> </tr> </table>	Beginners/Kindergarten	20-25 square feet per child (1.4-1.7 square meters)	Primary/Junior	15-20 square feet per child (1.2-1.5 square meters)
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Lighting	<p>Natural lighting with windows (preferred)</p> <p>Bright artificial lighting</p>				
Floor	<p>Cold climates: carpet preferred</p> <p>Other climates: vinyl, tile, wood, cement</p>				
Temperature	<p>Even temperature in room</p> <p>Well ventilated</p> <p>Heat or air conditioning as needed</p>				
Decor	<p>Attractive, color coordinated</p> <p>Soft, subdued colors</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">For dim natural light: white, yellow, rose or pink</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">For bright natural lighting: blue, green, beige</p> <p>Practical and easy to keep clean</p>				
Order	<p>No unnecessary furniture or equipment in room</p> <p>Unused supplies in cupboards (not visible)</p> <p>Orderly furniture arrangement</p> <p>Neat, clean, and orderly appearance</p>				
Furnishings	<p>Sufficient number of correctly sized chairs for children and adults</p> <p>Teaching center for each class</p> <p>Musical instrument in tune and in good repair</p> <p>Attractive center of interest at front of room</p> <p>Bulletin boards with attractive displays</p> <p>Appropriate pictures around room</p> <p>Chalkboard or whiteboard for primary and junior-earliteen divisions</p> <p>Clean, painted (or varnished) furniture in good repair</p> <p>Small table by door for supplies needed by receptionist</p> <p>Walk-in closet or storage cabinets for supplies</p>				
General Atmosphere	<p>Appropriate for age level</p> <p>Neat, clean, cheerful, and reverent</p> <p>Attractive and inviting</p>				

How do the facilities for adults and children compare?

THE PROGRAM

Organization	Activities planned and organized before children arrive Program begins and ends on schedule No "gaps" with nothing planned Leader, assistant, and musician have copies of program Supplies at hand when needed Sequence carefully planned and logical Balance of quiet/active sections Established routines followed Record keeping inconspicuous and efficient Activity available for children as soon as they arrive
Teaching Activities	Total Hour Bible Learning centered around a main objective (Big Idea or Message) Bible-, Christ-, and grace-centered activities All activities have strong spiritual impact Appeal to commitment to spiritual action Contribute to teaching the Big Idea Appropriate for age level of children Concepts and vocabulary understood by children Meet felt needs of children Interesting to children Follow sound learning principles Include knowledge, feeling, and action Variety and repetition appropriate for age of children Opportunities for children to participate and enjoy active, discovery learning Learning moves from simple to complex Opportunities for movement and purposeful activity Activities include: Singing - all types of songs Prayer and praise Mission/outreach/offering Bible-learning activities focused on Scripture Character-building activities Outreach and service activities
Teaching Materials	Appropriate for age level and attractive to children Variety of materials (no type overused, not too many) Professional appearance (neat, colorful, durable, uncluttered, clear, well kept) Multicultural in appearance Realistic and dignified, not associated with TV or other media Clearly fit with teaching objective Handled and used with skill Kept out of sight until needed Bible study guide and magazine for each child Curriculum guide and teaching materials for teachers and leaders Song books for junior/earliteens or projection equipment Supplies for each small group

THE PEOPLE

Staff Organization	Leader, assistant, receptionist/secretary, musician, teachers for small groups Staff adequate for needs of division Beginners: 1:2 adult/child ratio, unless parents are present Kindergarten: 1:3 adult/child ratio Primary: 1:4 adult/child ratio Junior: 1:5 adult/child ratio Staff organized for effective teaching Each person knows responsibility Each person on time, working, and prepared
Staff Attitudes	Deeply committed Christians who model the values the church wants the Calm and collected, organized, patient, consistent, fair Warm, caring, helpful to children and parents, concerned Respectful of children's needs and interests Helpful to individual children when needed Effective in helping children learn Encourage learning Never berate or embarrass Understand this age level Like this age level Liked by the children - happy and cheerful, enthusiastic Effective in developing close relationships with children Comfortable talking about personal religion Clearly interested in spiritual growth of children Team spirit - working together to improve teaching
Children	Actively involved in learning activities Show evidence of being respected and individually taught Show respect for God's house of worship Know the expectations of teachers and the situation Involved in actively helping with the program Noise level appropriate for activities
Behavior Problems	Staff prevents behavior problems through interesting, well organized learning experiences appropriate to the age of the child.