

Hearing “Truth & Training” Sections

Dear Awana Leader:

This handout is my effort to explain as fully as possible my expectations when it comes to “hearing sections” at Heritage. Our goal is to be consistent, not only between leaders within a club, but between each club of Sparks and older clubs as well.

What we do not want to happen is for a leader to “take pity” on a clubber to the extent that the section(s) being said are in fact worthless to the child because the leader has given too many helps, thus negating the stated standards of Awana at Heritage. It is much more beneficial for a child to know a few verses well, than to attempt many and retain little. We are not doing a child any favors if we do not hold them up to the standards we have decided as fair and acceptable.

I realize that there are some children that are “learning disabled” in some form. If you believe you have such a child then speak with your director, who in consultation with Sue and myself, will decide what accommodations will need to be made.

Also, children cannot say sections to their parents or family members, even if they are leaders in Awana.

My challenge to you is to make sure you understand the guidelines to “Hearing Sections.” If you have questions then speak with your director.

My next challenge to you is to consistently follow the guidelines so that every clubber will be treated fairly and equally!

The Guidelines are as follows:

- A “help” (or prompt) is whatever aid a leader chooses to assist a clubber in completing a section.
- Only two helps may be given per section. This is not two helps per verse!
- A “help” can be one word, but not more than three. This is where good judgment comes into play and possibly where “too much” can be given away, if you are not careful. Be judicious in this area. The goal here is to “prompt” their memory a little so that they can continue on with the verse. Usually you can sense that while the child is obviously trying to say the verse, it is even more obvious that they have not really learned the verse well.
- Do not offer any helps unless the clubber lets you know that one is needed
- A technique that I have found effective is to follow along with a pencil and quickly mark when there are errors. Then you are able to go back and go over the mistakes. If they have not needed more than two helps, even with the mistakes they made, then they have passed the section! Yet, you still will need to let them know what was incorrect.
- A help is usually verbal, but should you use some non-verbal means, it will still be considered a help.
- Saying, “That’s right” or “That’s ok” or “No, that’s wrong” is acceptable and does not count as a help.
- If the clubber is able to say the “first verse” and tries to say the second verse, but needs more than the two allotted helps then they will be required to start over and say the “first verse” again, as well.
- While it may seem of little consequence, we are not to allow the child to either add words like “and” or “the” or to leave them out either. If they should add or subtract, then we

must have them correct the mistake and repeat the section if it takes them over the two “helps” limit. If it does not take them over the limit, you will still need to let them know what was incorrect.

- If the child cannot say the section then they should go back to their seat to put more study time in. Encourage them to study more during the week.
- The Clubber will typically need to complete four parts. 1) Start Here, 2) Explore, 3) Memorize, and 4) Review.

Thank you for your diligence in this very important aspect of Awana.
Pastor Tony

Please detach and return to your Director (unless you have done this in a previous club year)

Hearing Sections Agreement

I have read and understand how AWANA at Heritage requires me to correctly “hear sections.”
I further agree that I will abide by these standards.

_____ Sign _____ Date