

Teacher Training on Diversity

- Thank you for coming. First of all I want to thank you all for all that you do for our primary and for the kids and for doing a great job! Sometimes this calling can be challenging and we want you to know that we are here to support you and the families so don't hesitate to bring things to our attention. Also Thank you for filling out surveys. I read all of them and it helped us make decision as a new presidency.
- Primary Goals
 - Preparing older two classes for YM/YW
 - Using diversity including art work, whenever possible
 - Teaching with and inviting the spirit
 - Focusing on love and not compliance or behavior
 - Instilling a testimony of missions-Stake goal
- Detail
 - Older 2 classes - I would like it to be a goal to have each child help with the lesson at least twice this year. This can look like anywhere from a child talking for 5 minutes to just holding up a picture depending on what the child is ok doing. Base your decision on the emotional and social needs of each child. –May use primary singing time to prepare.
 - Other teachers can have children participate in lessons once again if you think a child would be comfortable with this and
 - I've noticed how well you do with treat the junior and senior differently according to their developmental needs. I fully support that because these 2 oldest classes are ready to be treated more like Young Men and Young Women, and if you wanted to get even more creative with that by all means go right ahead.
 - Using diversity including art work, whenever possible
 - Show picture of Jesus. This picture was huge and hanging in our church in albuquerque. (Name) saw this picture as a 7 year old and became very concerned. She asked where all the Black people were and if she could ever be an angel.
 - Only having pictures and stories about people who are White sends an unspoken message that White is superior and more righteous. My daughter thought that only white people could be angels. It also sends an unintentional message that you are not welcome here if you are a POC.
 - Children are smarter than we give them credit and absolutely notice these unspoken and unintentional messages.
 - I am currently working with (Name) on getting more diverse artwork in the building and having more diverse resources readily available for you teachers. I will be redoing the primary room and we will also be coming

up with other ways on how to celebrate the blessing of diversity. I encourage you as teachers to do the same. -- Utilizing diversity helps us challenge our biases and learn to Love as Christ loved.

- The Blessings of Diversity, By Bryant Jensen from the ensign.
 - “Listening closely to and learning from the perspectives and experiences of others can be uncomfortable. However, doing so helps us realize just how much we see the world as we are rather than as it is. When we prayerfully allow ourselves to be open to learn from our differences, we can identify and change our misconceptions and unintended biases.”
 - It is an essential part of becoming a true disciple of Christ. “Increased diversity in the Lord’s Church is not coincidental. These differences serve the purposes of God. I pray we will be the people God wants us to be—united in Christ, with our differences.”
- Teaching with and inviting the spirit
 - I’m used to talking about uncomfortable topics and I don’t think we talk about this in a church setting...so here goes. There are many things that I’m not ok with in regards to church history, church culture etc. and quite frankly I don’t think God approves of many of those things either. And I think that’s ok to feel that way. I have had many friends leave the church because of this. This year I’m excited that we get to focus directly and simply on Jesus and his life here. We really need to instill a deep understanding of Christ in these children to sustain them through the storms.
 - The goal here is to invite the spirit whenever possible and to testify of Christ.
 - These children won’t remember the words you say, but they will remember how you made them feel and this absolutely will shape their understanding of Christ—share story about the John Johnson farm. We visited the John Johnson farm and I didn’t know this but Jesus visited Joseph here. We went upstairs to a room where there was a Christus. The kids were being roudy. Couldn’t hear the woman missionary, so I yelled at them to be quiet not because I wanted them to comply, but because I wanted them to know Jesus. And I explained that to them. I then went on to bear my testimony of Jesus and it was the most spiritual experience of the whole trip. I know those children felt it. And that is the atmosphere that we want to create for our primary. Always redirect in a way that brings the spirit stronger, not chases it away. Not singling out individuals if you can help it. Explaining the why’s to children is helpful for them. A goal for each of us should be praying that we will know how to bring the spirit to our classroom and praying for the spirit to touch each of them.
 - Anyone want to share ideas?