

TIPS FOR THE HEART OF THE MATTER

CONNECTION OVER COMPLIANCE

At Rally Jr., the energy will be through the roof. However, our goal is not just to provide a structure: it is to create irresistible environments where kids develop relational connections with leaders and others. When you are managing a massive grade, remember these core shifts;

- **Behavior is Communication;** We view "misbehavior" as a signal that a child is overwhelmed or lacks the tools to succeed. In a high-sensory environment like Rally Jr., this is incredibly common! This is not about behavior modification: it is helping kids understand the "why" behind their actions.
- **Connection Before Correction;** We prioritize the "one" over the "task".
- **Co-Regulation Over Control;** Instead of "Sit down and be quiet," we lead with, "Let's focus on this together".
- **Personal Presence;** When we see kids the way Jesus does, we realize that "owning the room" is actually about owning the atmosphere of safety and belonging for every child.

THE THREE PILLARS OF RESPECT

Even without a formal small group time, we lead kids to respect leaders, others, and property in every space they enter.

- **Honor Our Leaders;** We give our attention to leaders because we value what they have to share. When a Host is talking from the stage, we prompt kids to listen and stay focused on that person.
 - **The "Personal" Touch;** "Hey [Name], I don't want you to miss what [Host Name] is saying because it's a big part of our story today".
- **Honor Our Friends;** We protect each other's experience so that no one misses out on what God is doing. In Large Group, we keep our hands and feet to ourselves and avoid distracting those around us.
 - **The "Personal" Touch;** "Let's make sure [Friend's Name] has enough space... Their voice is important to our group".
- **Honor Our Space;** We care for our environment because it is a gift that belongs to everyone. In the Vibe rotations, we treat supplies with care—no ripping or destroying—and we work together to clean up our space when we're finished.
 - **The "Personal" Touch;** "Let's keep these supplies nice so the kids who come after us feel just as welcomed as we did".

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ON THE FLY VERBIAGE

Use these quick scripts to redirect kids while keeping the tone positive and relational;

- **High Energy;** "I see your body has a lot of energy! Let's find a way to move that doesn't distract our friends. Do you want to be my special helper?"
- **Talking Over Others;** "I can tell you have something important to share! Let's save that... so I can give you my full attention".
- **Disrespecting Property;** "We want to keep our things nice for everyone. Can you help me take care of this so the next group can enjoy it too?"
- **Needing a Reset;** "It looks like this room is feeling a bit 'big' for you right now. Let's have our Coach walk with you to find a quieter spot to reset".

PRACTICAL STEPS TO WIN

Proximity is Key; Grade Leaders must sit among their kids during Large Group, not behind or in front. If you sit away from them, you cannot lead them.

Engagement is Contagious; If kids see you engaged in worship, they are more likely to engage. We don't force worship, but we model respect during it.

Redirect Kindly; If a child is distracting others, give them a quiet warning or even a small task to help them refocus.

A NOTE FOR YOUR HEART

In the middle of a loud room, it is easy to focus on the behavior and lose sight of the child. But remember; every child is a unique story, and your presence is the bridge to their belonging. By choosing connection over control, you are modeling the same radical grace that Jesus shows us. When we lead with boundless hope, we create a space where every kid knows they are seen, known, and valued. Your few are not problems to be solved or fixed: they are children to be loved.