

THE **COORDINATOR** FACTOR:

What *ONE* thing keeps your Steering Team connected to MOPS International and the bigger vision of MOPS?

MOPS Leaders said...

- Sharing information from our Council Coordinator with my team.
- Inviting our Council Coordinator to meet with our Steering Team Leaders so they get the bigger picture of MOPS.
- Going to Convention *with* my team! Tell others!
- Using the MOPS International annual theme, cast a vision for the group, stay on task with reaching moms in our community.
- Giving praises to my team, using MOPS training DVDs, making sure my team reads their positional handbooks, encouraging use of the leader's site www.MOPSleaders.org.
- At each Steering Team meeting, discussing how we met the MOPS mission statement at our last meeting (we print it on every Steering Team agenda).
- Meet for coffee and a one-on-one time with each Steering member to talk about how her position fits into the MOPS vision, and how the year is going for her. Ask if she has any questions or challenges I can help with, and pray with her.

New Theme Bonus Tip: use amusement park rides for meeting themes (i.e. Rollercoaster Ride of Motherhood, Living in the Fun House with Preschoolers, etc!)

THE **DISCUSSION GROUP** FACTOR:

What *ONE* thing/activity do you use to train your table leaders on how to better facilitate their groups and use lifestyle evangelism?

MOPS Leaders said...

- Use Lifestyle Evangelism training material from leader's site, training DVDs from MOPS International (see MOPShop, and leader's site for ideas).
- Meet regularly to share challenges, successes and for role playing of past situations. Encourage communication and prayer within the table leader team.
- Train table leaders to be sensitive to the fact that not all moms are in the same place emotionally or spiritually.
- Provide opportunities to practice being a good listener, not always being the one to talk, being real but still a role model.
- Remind table leaders to call the moms in their groups between meetings to see how they are doing.
- Train on using "touch points" to connect with moms. See the leader's site for more info.
- Make sure they are receiving all of their Leadership resources from MOPS International by being registered on the Steering Roster!

New Theme Bonus Tip: Ask each *Discussion Group* to pick their name from either: favorite amusement park names, fun fair foods, or games. You pick the theme, they pick the name!

THE **CREATIVE ACTIVITIES** FACTOR:

What is *ONE* hot new craze for creative activities?

MOPS Leaders said...

- Painted and Decoupage Clip Boards: For examples go to www.scrapjazz.com
- Greeting card making, rubber stamping, game days
- Learn to knit, Make No Sew Fleece blankets/scarves
- Seasonal wreath making, ornament making
- Take and Bake or freezer meals: moms bring their own 9x9 baking pan, you provide the ingredients to assemble
- Candy making, cake and/or cupcake decorating demo and practice
- First Aid kit assembly for our car
- DIY spa products (bath salts, bath oils, etc)
- Candle making (using clear gel wax, add little drop ins such as hearts, butterflies etc.) Yankee candle has a web site that sells scents to add. Make candle holders too!
- Garden Stepping Stones: place in them various items, child's hand prints, or write words on them. Kits available at craft stores.

New Theme Bonus Tip: Provide colorful fabrics, glue and composition books. Moms can cover the books to create a diary for recording their own mothering experiences while reading their free MOPS International Membership copy of *The Mommy Diaries: Finding Yourself in the Daily Adventure*

THE **FINANCE** FACTOR:

What *ONE* thing has been a successful fund raiser for your group?

MOPS Leaders said...

- Great Moms Walk (www.greatmomswalk.org)
- Antiquities Photo Fundraiser (1-800-871-6255)
- Restaurant Dinner Nights (restaurant donates a percentage of money spent that night by families)
- Silent Auction with donated items
- Annual rummage sale at church or garage sale at home (items donated by MOPS moms, proceeds go to group)
- Selling pumpkin pot planters or mums in the fall, poinsettias or wreaths for Christmas, spring bedding flowers by the flat at Easter (contact local nurseries)
- Offer a Baked Potato Bar after church, sell take and bake cookies, or sell fancy chocolate dipped strawberries for Mothers Day
- Raffle off fun themed items donated by stores, home based businesses (photo sitting, gym membership) charging \$5 for one ticket, \$10/three tickets
- Produce a MOPS cook book (or create a self published one on your computer) www.morriscookbooks.com

New Theme Bonus Tip: Offer early registration incentive! Ideas: Give moms a free ticket for "Mom's Morning or Evening Out" (Steering Team babysits at church on specific date, moms go out!), do "Valet" service at her first meeting, give MOPShop goodie.

THE *PUBLICITY* FACTOR:

What *ONE* thing has been the most successful method of reaching into the community to bring new moms to your group?

MOPS Leaders said...

- Word of mouth invitations – give all moms two MOPS registration forms, ask them to invite two new moms, even moms they don't know or someone they meet at the park or at swimming.
- Hold a Great Moms Walk, distribute MOPS fliers while you walk. One group combined their walk with being in a local parade, so they walked, raised funds and let the community know about MOPS all at once!
- Make your MOPS newsletter available to moms that attend the preschool at your church, neighbors, grandparents
- Collect past issues of MOMSense magazines. Remove the address labels, replace with labels with your local MOPS group information. Leave at pediatricians, kids' dentist offices, any places moms go
- Give out Labeled Lip Balm as a Steering Team at a local "mom" place www.lipbalmexpress.com
- Host a booth at a local fair and provide: MOPS diaper changing station, private nursing area, MOPS fliers
- Invite your local women's shelter to bring moms to attend your MOPS group or... take MOPS to them!

New Theme Bonus Tip: Create eye catching "ticket style" fliers/invite cards inviting moms to a free ride at their first MOPS meeting!

THE *MOPPETS* FACTOR:

What *ONE* thing does your group do to make your MOPPETS Caregivers feel appreciated, welcomed, and wanting to come back the next time?

MOPS Leaders said...

- Encourage moms to thank Caregivers and bring cards to them. Provide moms a basket with cards they can fill out while at their table during meetings.
- Give gifts at holiday times, end of year or small tokens... just because!
- Hold a MOPPETS Appreciation Day with a tea and dessert.
- Be sure all Caregivers have hot coffee, OJ, and breakfast goodies in their rooms or on a cart available on the way to their rooms.
- Give them fun-sized candies with cute sayings attached, telling them they are doing a great job!
- Provide a MOPPETS Curriculum to make their job easier. Offer training before and mid year. Give them copies of any policies that apply to the children and moms.
- Ask if any Caregivers want to advertise their babysitting services to moms outside of meetings for extra income.

New Theme Bonus Tip: As a creative activity, moms can create a laminated ride "ticket" with their child's photo on it to label diaper bags for MOPPETS. Your Caregivers will love you for this!

THE *MOPS MENTOR* FACTOR:

What *ONE* thing or activity allows you to connect with the women in your group so that you can build relationships with them?

MOPS Leaders said...

- Remember the power of your words....encourage, encourage, encourage
- Pray for Steering Team and MOPS moms.
- Be "confidential counsel" for the Coordinator
- Host Open Houses for gatherings, teas, get - togethers
- Provide devotional at every meeting
- Listen... keep track of each mom by using a journal or notebook. (Moms love when we remember personal details.) Send each mom a card or e-mail each year.
- Be in the KNOW...keep up to date on current issues, parenting trends, what's on the web...then bring wisdom and meaningful perspective.
- Share tips....quick easy recipes, house cleaning tips
- Share past experience from your own life
- Bring a meal when a mom has a baby, along with a book, cookbook, or personal card with words of wisdom.

New Theme Bonus Tip: Consider inviting your adult child to share in writing how you made a positive impact on his/her childhood, and how new moms can too!

THE *HOSPITALITY* FACTOR:

What *ONE* thing does your group do that makes a new mom feel welcome from the minute she walks into the door of your building?

MOPS Leaders said...

- Be intentional about greeting moms, and introducing them to other moms.
- Provide name tags for all moms, calls moms by name, tell them you are happy to see them! Find out something unique about her.
- Smile! Help mom through the door with her children, diaper bag, food and stroller. Help her bring the children to MOPPETS.
- Ask MOPS Mentors to have a cart available at front of church to collect food items moms are bringing for the meeting. Moms can pull up to curb, pass food out for cart, and then go park and unload their children.
- Provide a Welcome Folder to new moms that contains a MOPS group brochure, business card to share, MOPPETS Program handbook, and calendar for meetings and events.
- Help her with the registration and make sure she has your contact information.

New Theme Bonus Tip: create fun "MOPS New Mom Welcome Packs" of small goodies (mini candy, mini bag of microwave popcorn), place inside paper popcorn box like at fairs/movie theaters. Be sure it includes meeting and leader info, plus a note of welcome for the ride!