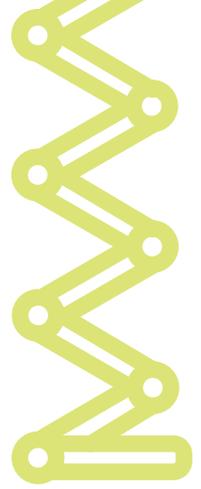


DECORATING GUIDE



“GADGET & GIZMO’S IMAGINATION STATION – If you can think it, we can make it!”

Are you ready to decorate your environment for VBS? Help get kids and volunteers excited by setting the mood for a fun week spent learning about how we are all beautifully and wonderfully made by God.

Theme ideas to get you started:

The great thing about Gadgets & Gizmos VBS is there are so many fun ways to decorate your environments and you can totally do it on a budget. Our main characters, Gadget and Gizmo, live in a typical neighborhood, so you can decorate your space like a town with buildings and such, or you can do a fun clubhouse theme. Gadget and Gizmo are also incredible inventors, so you can decorate with gears, inventions, robots, and computers. Also, the décor for this theme can easily be made from things you have on hand or find at thrift stores and garage sales. This is the best time to get creative and have fun with decorating.

Fill your halls with gadgets and gizmos and robots and more! Hang party swirls and Slinkies® from the ceiling. Cut cardboard into gear shapes and spray paint them with metallic colors. Use pool noodles and dryer vent tubing to make shapes in corners and along the walls. Draw robots on mirrors. Create small robots for tables using paper lanterns as bodies. You could even create a “Robot Photo Spot” where families can create the perfect memory of an awesome week.

HALLWAYS AND LOBBY:

Allow your children to feel like they are right in the story by making your hallways look like neighborhood streets. You can make storefronts, houses, bus stops, etc., with butcher-block paper and tape. Consider including a candy store, movie theater, post office, etc. Create a street running down the hall with yellow tape, and use white tape and stop signs to create a crosswalk between classes.

CRAFT AREA:

Everyone loves to go to the local hobby shop / craft store. Turn your craft area into your favorite hobby shop. Paper and tape is your best friend! Depending on what stores are actually in your town/city you can make your hobby shop look similar to a local store so the kids will recognize the signage. Or create your own craft store name that goes with your church or ministry name. If you want to kick it up a notch, set up crafts on shelves in small baskets like a store, and label the shelves and baskets so the kids can shop for their supplies before making each day’s fun craft. Separate items like scissors, pencils, crayons, paper, and whatever other supplies are needed that day for crafts. The kids will love shopping for what is needed. For smaller children, you could make craft packets that they can get off the shelves where everything is already together, but it still feels like they’ve been to the hobby shop.

LARGE GROUP AREA:

This is the hub of Gadgets & Gizmos VBS. Your Imagination Station should be front and center. If a lemonade stand, Wild West covered wagon, and food truck had a baby, you might get close to this oddity. This is where Gadget and Gizmo create! If you're super handy, you can actually build your Imagination Station from wood, or you can have fun with a red wagon and cardboard. You can use tubing, old keyboards, wires, and Slinkies. Always remember that it should look like kids built it! There should be a sign on your creation or across your stage that reads: "GADGET & GIZMO'S IMAGINATION STATION – If you can think it, we can make it!" You can also use blueprints, gears, broken electronics, motherboards, tools, and inventions to decorate your Large Group area.

MUSIC AREA:

As we travel through town we come to the local music shop or music venue. You can decorate with paper music notes, sheet music, instruments, and instrument cases. Set up chairs in a U shape or in the round to create a fun music venue. Grouping music instruments in categories like strings, horns, percussion, etc., can help it look more like a music store.

REC/SNACK AREA:

It's time to get outside or at least feel like you're outside! Make your snack and rec area feel like a local park. If you have an outdoor area available, USE IT! Get the kids outside for a while for snack time and games. Create a sign with a park name on it such as the name of a local park near you or a name that goes with your ministry name, such as 252 Park or Jump Kids Park.

If you are creating this area inside, try to make it feel like you're outdoors. A little artificial grass on the ground, paper trees on the walls, and a park sign will help the kids feel like they are visiting their local park.

SMALL GROUP ROOM:

It's clubhouse time! When children are in their small groups you want them to feel comfortable, so it would be fun to provide pillows, beanbags, or carpet squares for them to sit on. Create areas that feel like kids made them, such as forts or tree houses. Old sheets and plastic tablecloths from the dollar store could create fun fort-like ceilings in Small Group rooms, making them feel different from Sunday mornings. You can even encourage kids to bring their own artwork to decorate the walls so it feels like they helped to create their clubhouse.