

What Should Be In Your Supply Closet

A lot of Christian Education supply closets are full of the leftovers of other projects and unwanted items donated by well-meaning teachers and members of the congregation. The first thing to do is weed out what you are never going to use!

The second thing to do is take a look over your curriculum for the year. Many curricula include a basic supply list – check yours out and then begin making your list. It is more cost-effective in the long-run to purchase your supplies in on order from an educational supply store. Here are a few of my favorites:

[S & S Worldwide](#) [Lakeshore Learning](#) [K12 Kids School Supplies](#)

Even if your budget is limited, there are a couple of ways to get supplies onto your shelves. Print the attached list in your congregation's newsletter in late August as families are shopping for school supplies. Ask them to purchase one item for the Church School closet. My favorite way of stocking up is to have a Pentecost Birthday Party on the Day of Pentecost. Print the supply list in advance and invite members of the congregation to bring a "birthday present" for the Church from the items on your list!

Every Christian Educator's supply closet should include:

- First aid kit (one per classroom)
- Non-latex disposable gloves
- Crayons (Crayola makes wonderful "class paks" that allow you to buy in bulk at a reasonable price and will last the year)
- Magic Markers (Crayola makes wonderful "class paks" that allow you to buy in bulk at a reasonable price and will last the year)
- Crayola Multi-cultural markers (8 different skin colors)
- Glue sticks
- White glue bottles
- Children's scissors with safety blades.
- A few pair of adult scissors for teachers
- Staplers (one per classroom)
- Staples
- Construction paper (both 8.5 x11 and 9x12) in a variety of colors- don't forget white!)
- Chenille pipe cleaners (multi-colored – you will be amazed at the uses you can find for these)

- Washable, non-toxic tempera paint (as many different colors as you can afford – you can blend the primary colors to get other shades too if your budget doesn't allow you to purchase more interesting colors.)
- Glitter paint (MUCH easier to use than glue and glitter!)
- Regular pencils
- Rulers (two per classroom- more if you can afford them)
- White poster board
- Model Magic (as much as you can afford and in as many colors as you can afford! You can do almost EVERYTHING with Model Magic!)

As Your Budget Allows

- Bulletin board paper rolls (in at least the liturgical colors of green, white, purple and red)
- Bulletin board trimmers
- Tissue paper (both large sheets and small 1" squares)
- Colored pencils (Crayola makes wonderful "class paks" that allow you to buy in bulk at a reasonable price and will last the year)
- Colored poster board
- Multi-colored squares of felt
- Multi-colored squares of foam
- Alphabet stencils
- More Model Magic
- Foam shapes and alphabets (they usually come in buckets by subject)