

## Worship is at the heart of Christian community.

Worship that is welcoming for children and youth is vital. Here are some suggestions for how to do this:

- Provide a children's bulletin and crayons;
- Prepare and provide worship bags for preschoolers containing soft toys that reflect the liturgy;
- Provide name tags for everyone including children;
- Provide offering envelopes for children and youth;
- Encourage parents to make sure that their child's view is not obstructed – small children should sit toward the front, on a lap, or booster chair;
- Ensure that worship is interactive so that the children are engaged and not expected to just sit still and just listen;
- Be open to trying new ways of worship using biblical translations that are child friendly, different music styles, visual arts, drama and dance.



Contact Canadian Ministries for more support and resources about how to build a congregation that nurtures the faith of children and youth.

*Jesus said,  
"Let the little children come to me;  
do not stop them;  
for it is to such as these  
that the kingdom of God belongs."  
Mark 10:14*

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# How can a church welcome children and youth?



# How can your church welcome children and youth?

- Plan programs, music and prayers that related to their age and interests.
- Show as many ways as you can that you really want young people present.
- Encourage youth to question and express their opinions and explore their faith.
- Share our faith stories and experiences.
- Be intentional about knowing their names and interests.
- Be a role model. Be respectful, loving and compassionate.
- Invite youth to serve alongside you in all sorts of ways: collecting and counting offering, setting up chairs, cleaning up after events, greeting, working in a food bank, leading prayers, reading Scripture, serving Communion.
- Be an extra adult for a child/youth event – a games night, retreat, or sports outing
- Make food for church gatherings that appeals to youth.
- Be ready for children even if they don't show up.
- Create a small play area at the back of your worship space.
- Ensure that your community is a safe and comfortable place to be.
- Show that your faith brings you joy and hope. Smile. Laugh. Relax. Enjoy.

