



# Welcoming Parents


## **WANT TO MAKE YOUR CHURCH WELCOMING FOR PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN?**

The reality is that any parent of young children who enters your church is likely to be tired, running late, stressed, emotionally running low and simply praying that their child will behave during the service. The biggest gift that you can give this family is a community that is accepting of them and their children, today, where they are at joy, anger, noise, mess and all.

To be a young family friendly church it requires just a little prep work. Think about the following before Sabbath:

- Do we have a way of welcoming these families? Sharing with them essential information like the location of your bathroom's, cry room, extra change of diapers if needed.
- Do you have a worship activity pack for young preschoolers?
- Do you have an activity sheet related to the sermon for preschoolers?
- Do we have a way for families to connect with the grandparents in our community? A fantastic way to do this is have grandparents run Sabbath Schools or have grandparent/mentor types strategically sit near young families.
- Is it logistically easy for families with prams to navigate the isles, entrances etc? Being able to easily access places is something easy to facilitate, but it makes a huge difference.
- Is does our church service/sabbath school provide something that is friendly to families? Think duration, content, participation opportunities.

We have developed these free printable bookmarks for you to print out and give to new families that come to your church. As a simple way to make them feel welcome and valued. After all Jesus said "let the little children come."



• **LOOKING FOR RESOURCES?** The Internet is chock full of resources for making your church young family friendly. Think pinterest, blog's and other churches resources. Here are a few resources to get you started.

- Our website  
[children.adventist.org.au](http://children.adventist.org.au)
- Just for kids - bulletin inserts  
<http://children.adventist.org.au/participation>
- Let's Start Talking  
[http://children.adventist.org.au/uploaded\\_assets/485431](http://children.adventist.org.au/uploaded_assets/485431)
- Worship pack  
[http://children.adventist.org.au/uploaded\\_assets/488338](http://children.adventist.org.au/uploaded_assets/488338)
- Faith Shaper  
<http://children.adventist.org.au/faith-shaper>
- Playful Worship  
<http://playfulmusic.org/>
- GraceLink  
<http://www.gracelink.net/>  
<http://children.adventist.org.au/gracelink>
- It's Just a Phase  
<http://justaphase.com/>



# Welcome

TO PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN  
MATTHEW 19:14

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**RELAX!** WE ARE SO GLAD THAT YOU ARE HERE. GOD PUT THE WIGGLE IN CHILDREN; DON'T FEEL YOU HAVE TO SUPPRESS THOSE WIGGLES IN GOD'S HOUSE.

- Consider sitting towards the front where it is easier for your little ones to engage.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service, actions of the pastors, musicians and leaders.
- Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behaviour by mimicking you.
- If you have to leave the Sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "let the children come to me."



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DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES - CHILDREN  
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