

# EQUIPPING

for intergenerational ministry

## Welcoming children and families

**The developmental need of young people to discover where and with whom they belong... they are looking for warmth not as an add-on but in their church's very DNA.** Growing Young

**We all need to know that we are in a beloved relationship with God. We can create sacred places and engage in worship, prayer, and conversations with God that include all people at 'all places at all times'.** Olivia B. Updegrove (InterGenerate)

Every church can be intentionally intergenerational in its ministry and faith formation experiences.

Cultivating caring relationships across generations in the congregation and community can become a life-giving spiritual community of faith, hope and love.



Consider some of the following ideas for your congregation:

### NAMES ARE SPECIAL

- Learn the names of the children and call them by name. Introduce them to other children and families by name.
- Wear name tags so the children and families can know your name.

### CRÈCHE

- Provide a crèche where parents can still hear the worship but withdraw with their children if needed.

### WORSHIP LEADING

- Invite children and families to be involved in leading worship as they are able – reading, ushering, greeting, praying.

### INCLUDE A CHILDREN'S ADDRESS

- Provide an engaging CHILDREN'S ADDRESS using lectionary based addresses from Grow Ministries. There is also an EQUIPPING SHEET to provide some tips for leading a children's address. Available from [www.growministries.org.au](http://www.growministries.org.au)



## ACTIVITY BAGS

- Provide activity bags filled with books, colouring and activity pages and pencils.

## WORSHIP NOTES

- Provide WORSHIP NOTES for the children to complete during worship – see the Grow Ministries website 'store' for this free resource.

## CHILDREN'S SONG

- Include a song during worship that the children will know. Perhaps one that has actions.

## FOOD

- Kids love food. Consider all ages when you plan morning tea.

## ARTWORK

- Provide a place for children's artwork to be displayed. Ensure this space is updated regularly.
- Use children's artwork to scan for the bulletin cover, to decorate for special times of the church year like Easter, Christmas or Pentecost.

## MINISTRIES

- Consider the age and program for First Communion.
- Give Bibles to young children and families to read together.

## FACILITIES

- Put step stools in the toilets.
- Have nappy change stations in both men and women's toilets.
- Put a kids table and chairs with activities in the fellowship area.



These are just some of the ways children and families can be made to feel welcome. When people feel their needs are being met, they begin to feel that they belong.

What other ways can you create a feeling of belonging in your congregation?

Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me. Mark 9:37

I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, Sovereign LORD; I will proclaim your righteous deeds, yours alone. Since my youth, God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds. Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come. Psalm 71:16-18