

Some Thoughts about Services with children in

The below points have been prepared to give you some considerations in your preparation of the service.

Your resource person is:

- When addressing the children it is often best to leave them in their seats with the adults. This means the talk is addressed to everyone and the kids don't feel talked down to.
- Visual (objects, OHP's,), movement (drama, dance, your movements), voice variety, use of other media (video, music) all have their play
- Structure the service by answering the following questions: Will the children be in during the message? What will those who use activity boards be doing? When will I make the activity boards available? (If they are just left out children will grab them early) What songs will I choose that better suits the time? Does the service have pace, and variety of pace?
- Not all children have as long an attention span as others do. Keep in mind that longer than 10 minutes for some is difficult.
- The range of ages in children means that activities prepared on clipboards usually only suit those who can read and above. We still have a number of younger children than this who need to be catered for. This often means that games and activities may need to have two levels to them or a variety to suit the tastes of all.
- Doing activities are better. Something to make or think about rather than just colouring in.
- Can the activities the children do be brought back to be shown to the church as a whole? ... children love participating – a faith of action is important

Within all the above points remember these thoughts: God can speak through children just as adults. If God wants to take the service in a certain direction then do so... the Spirit will take care of the kids.

Other Resources

The church has a TV and is a member of the Christian Superstore Video Centre. We have made arrangements that videos can be hired for two weeks from Sat of one, to Monday of next if you need to split the video up over two days. They vary in length. A catalogue is available through Jeff.