

What do you do with Children in a House Church? There are many great thoughts and practices when it comes to serving and involving children in a house church. Below are links to several articles and videos sharing helpful suggestions and thoughts on this issue. We encourage you to read through each and discuss together as a house church leadership team to discuss what works best for your specific situation and community.

We encourage house churches to involve children as much as possible during the house church meeting and service opportunities. Caring for and serving children needs to be seen as an opportunity for making disciples because that's exactly what it is.

Involving children can be done in a variety of ways. For example: *singing age appropriate kids worship songs ("My God is so Big", "Jesus loves Me", etc.), asking them to pray or share prayer requests, inviting them to answer questions, serving the group by helping during the meal, clean up, etc. Planning community service/ mission projects that involve children.*



The primary time when child supervision is needed is typically during the Bible Study/Sharing the Word time of a house church meeting. Currently, here are some practices to consider for caring for children during that time:

1. House Church Members Sign Up and Rotate

- Distribute sign-up sheet among people to take a week to supervise the children. Encourage this is a way to 'disciple' children by loving them and serving them. Supervising children should be seen as the same as feeding the hungry, serving the homeless. It's just as important.
- If no one is signed up for a particular week then no supervision is provided for that week. In this case, inform parents ahead of time (via email, text, phone) so parents can make arrangements for their own children (*preferably bring toys, coloring pages for their own children*).
- If desired, provide a curriculum/ Bible Story book, toys, etc. for those supervising children during their scheduled week.

2. Hire outside Babysitting/Childcare.

- House Church agrees to pay/hire outside babysitting. We would encourage background checks on any person being hired/paid.

3. Work with a local Christian college, school, and/or ministry (i.e. Child Evangelism Fellowship, local Christian School, etc.) to provide care during house church meetings.

- Some Christian schools/colleges require students to have service or ministry hours. Caring for children during a house church meeting is a way for these students to not only meet a need of the house church but also their required service hour needs. We would encourage background checks on any person/student being hired/paid.

4. Keep and involve children during entire house church meeting.

- Expectation must be made known to the house church that this will mean interruptions and is perfectly acceptable. All will welcome and understand this to be the case and willing to serve one another's children if needed during this time.

RESOURCES, THOUGHTS, & OTHER SUGGESTIONS:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCvwR5d6RGg&livepage=apple.com>

<http://www.alexabsalom.com/?s=involving+children&x=0&y=0>

<http://www.vergenetwork.org/2011/06/06/missional-community-with-children-in-mind/>

<http://logangentry.com/2012/02/27/missional-community-integrating-children/>

<http://weare3dm.com/mikebreen/we-are-3dm/10-tips-for-missional-communities-with-kids/>