



The Childcare Conundrum

Here is an overview of the many ways to include children within your community.

Matthew 19:14

For churches wanting to include younger families in small groups, childcare will always be one of the larger obstacles. But there is hope. Several options do exist for successfully accommodating children within a small-group setting.

Overview of common options

Here are some common options when children participate with adults in the group:

1. Children remain present with adults for the entire meeting.
2. Children remain present with adults for part of the meeting, and then break into a separate group in a separate room. Children can develop their own small group, participate in an activity (such as a Veggie Tales video), or enjoy a supervised time of free play.
3. Children join the adults every other meeting, or once a month. Children and adults meet separately during the other weeks.
4. Children and adults meet separately for the entire meeting.

Here are some common options when a babysitter is involved:

1. Adults work together to arrange a babysitter for all of the children in the group. Payment is split between the entire group, or between only those bringing children.
2. A babysitter cares for most of the children during the group meeting, but nursing infants are allowed to remain with adults.
3. Outside of the small group, each parent arranges for the care of their own children through a relative or sitter.
4. Young adults or teenagers from the church's youth ministry volunteer to care for the children of your small group as an act of service.
5. Young adults or teenagers from the church's youth ministry care for the children of your small group and are paid for their work.

Here are some common options when childcare is arranged within the small group:

1. Each small-group member cares for the children on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly rotation.
2. Only those participants who have children in the group provide childcare on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly rotation.
3. Participants of other small groups at your church (ones that meet during a different time of the week) rotate to provide childcare for your small group, which returns the service.