

How child-friendly is your church?

Do you think your church is demonstrating best-practice in children's ministry? If so, we'd love to hear from you so we can showcase the best of what is happening around Australia and encourage all churches in their work with children and families.

During Children's Week we will launch the quest to find the most child-friendly churches and recognise them through the coming year.

As a starting point your children's ministry team, congregation or church council could do this self-assessment:

1. Safety

Does the church adhere to Uniting Church policy detailed in '[A Safe Place](#) for Children'?

Yes No

Is there a coordinator who keeps records of children's ministry?

Yes No

Are records kept in a locked filing cabinet for privacy?

Yes No

Are adult/child safety ratios adhered to?

Yes No

Has everyone who works with children signed the "Working with Children Check" ?

Yes No

Has everyone who works with children completed a Child Protection course?

Yes No

Are leaders aware of emergency procedures?

Yes No

Is the church building a safe space for children?

Yes No

Is a regular check for potential hazards done in places where children's programs are held?

Yes No

Is there child-proof fencing securing areas outside the building?

Yes No

Are there signs to remind motorists to watch for children in the car park?

Yes

No

2. Leaders

Are children's leaders provided with support through training programs?

For example:

Child Protection training?

Yes

No

First Aid training?

Yes

No

Practical workshops

Yes

No

Are leaders affirmed/commissioned in a church service?

Yes

No

Is there regular specific prayer for children's leaders?

Yes

No

Are leaders encouraged to discover and update resources?

Yes

No

3. Children/Family Programs

Is a Sunday or mid-week group provided for children?

Yes

No

Are there opportunities for children to grow spiritually through knowing the Scriptures, encountering God and prayer?

Yes

No

Are programs based on an understanding of the social, physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual development of children?

Yes

No

Are children welcomed as individuals?

Yes

No

Are children with special needs welcomed and accommodated?

Yes No

Is there recognition and acceptance of diverse families?

Yes No

Are children's programs supported by the whole church through regular prayer and financial giving?

Yes No

4. Worship

Does your church have regular all-age worship services?

Yes No

Are children welcomed and included specifically?

Yes No

Is the length and structure of the service appropriate to young children e.g. can children move around and make some noise?

Yes No

Are children able to contribute to this worship service by being involved?

Yes No

5. Babies and Young Children and their Families

Are babies and young children and their families welcome in your church buildings through the provision of clean and safe spaces?

For example:

Do you have clearly marked baby changing facilities?

Yes No

Access to a microwave to heat bottles or baby food?

Yes No

A comfortable area for breastfeeding or calming a child?

Yes No

Is there provision of quality toys, books and experiences for very young children?

Yes No

Are there key people who welcome and assist parents/carers and their children during worship?
Yes No

Does your church provide or host a playgroup?
Yes No

Does your church promote itself in the community as a child-friendly church?
Yes No

Are there opportunities for parents seeking information about baptism to be followed up sensitively and quickly?
Yes No

Are there resources available for parents seeking to nurture faith practices in their home?
Yes No

6. Children's Voices

Are there opportunities for children to give feedback to your church?

For example:

Are children able to attend and observe meetings of the congregation or church council meetings?
Yes No

Are children able to be involved in planning and leading worship?
Yes No

Are children consulted on church matters, especially those that pertain to them?
Yes No

Are child-friendly feedback forms provided to children to evaluate children's programs?
Yes No

Are comments or recommendations made by children considered and followed up?
Yes No

7. Vision

Is there a shared vision for children's ministry in your church? See "On the Way Together"

Yes No

Is this reflected in your church mission/
vision statement?

Yes No

Is this reflected in your meeting agendas?

Yes No

Is your children's ministry evaluated and
prayerfully supported?

Yes No

**How is your church self-assessment? If you meet all, or nearly all
criteria, please get in touch with Rowena 8267 4295 or email
judythr@nsw.uca.org.au to arrange a visit.**