

Ideas for Making Churches More Family Friendly

- Provide Activity Bags (I've included sample contents because people wanted to know what to put in them.)

Sample contents for older children:

- Stencil (one large or 3 small)
- Pencil
- Crayons
- Drawing tablet
- Coloring book
- 2 Animal cards
- 2 Vinyl animals
- 1 Finger puppet
- Book
- Ruler
- 4 Felts
- Magnifier
- Quiz Master cards
- Eraser

Sample contents for younger children:

- Stuffed animal
- Bendable animals (not too small)
- Playskool-type people and animals
- Mirror (kind that don't break)
- Board book

- Use things children's size; i.e. booster chairs, toilets, tables and chairs in rooms, drinking fountains
- Have humor and activities in services
- Have cheerful, young-minded greeters
- Reserve seats in *front* for families where children can see and actually do much better
- Have children involved in a card ministry: make cards in Sabbath School to be mailed out to the sick or discouraged or absent
- Have a "Wednesday Night Out" for everyone: provide a meal for \$1 from 6-7; classes from 7-8; childcare or activities; choir practice at same time
- Have a "Parents' Night Out" during holiday season so parents have some free time to shop: feed and entertain the kids
- Acknowledge birthdays with cake right in church for those having birthdays

- Have Operation Pray where members of the congregation come together to pray for various needs
- Have Guardian Angels: Like Secret Sisters, but with members of the congregation “adopting” children, acknowledging them with letters, small gifts perhaps, remembering them in prayer
- One church has a quarterly kids’ magazine to which the kids contribute and are responsible for the contents (with encouragement and supervision I imagine)
- Have a “harvest party” instead of Halloween Trick or Treating and invite neighborhood kids; follow up with two or three nights of VBS-type activities.