



surface to soul  
going deeper with vibrant faith

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## 40 WAYS TO ENGAGE CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

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1. Purchase booster seats for your youngest members so they can see more of the action during worship.
2. Reserve front pews for families with young children.
3. Include banners with symbols and pictures in the sanctuary.
4. Share the specific names for objects in the church - altar, pew, aisle, font, etc.
5. Provide a rocking chair for nursing mothers and others who need to feed/soothe infants.
6. Include an invitation in the bulletin for families with young children to sit in the front pews.
7. Hang a church picture or art work at a young child's eye level.
8. Appeal to children's sense of touch by including textures they can feel, such as a textured cross.
9. Pay attention to where families with young children sit and what they do during worship; provide small tables.
10. Encourage members to learn the names of the children in your congregation.
11. Involve children as acolytes, readers, choir members, and soloists; as well as in offering prayers.
12. Encourage children to make the sign of the cross to remember their baptisms.
13. Celebrate baptismal birthdays by sending a card or noting them in the bulletin or newsletter.
14. Use a child's name when you greet him or her. If a child has a biblical name, talk about its meaning.
15. Post children's pictures on their baptismal birthdays; invite children to surround the baptismal font during a baptism.
16. Invite children during worship and in the bulletin to receive a blessing during communion.
17. Invite children to place a non-monetary offering in the offering plate indicating ways they can offer their time/abilities.
18. Include something relevant for the children to do during the "grown-up" sermon.
19. Include a physical object, action, or song during the children's message.
20. Explain parts of the liturgy, hymn, or special custom each Sunday; reinforce with bulletin inserts.
21. Include children in choir, bell choir, skits, or recitations.
22. Observe Week of the Young Child, or a Young Child Sunday with special songs, prayers, presentations, etc.
23. Offer large print hymnals and bulletins for children in your congregation who are new readers.
24. Rethink the contents of activity bags (Do they help kids tune in or tune out?).
25. Use children's drawings as bulletin covers.
26. Provide photos of your church for children to look at during the service.
27. Encourage children to draw pictures of what they heard about in church; post their art in the narthex.
28. Create age-appropriate activity bags (readers versus nonreaders is a start).
29. Include suggestions for family worship in the bulletin inserts.
30. Provide opportunities for children to make banners that will be hung in church.
31. When children are baptized, provide a candle for the family to light each year on baptismal birthdays.
32. Create a baptismal banner every year, adding the name and baptismal date of each child as baptisms occur.
33. Invite families with young children to church to teach them about the objects and symbols in the sanctuary.
34. List in the bulletin an element of the worship experience that parents can discuss with their children.
35. Teach children how to cross themselves when the pastor says "In the name of the Father..."
36. Create a handout that describes the symbols and pictures found in the sanctuary.
37. Sing a well-known kids' song during the time children gather for their message.
38. Create a special photo album that contains photos of each child who is a member.
39. Ask families to be greeters so children can greet people attending worship.
40. Let children distribute something to every person at the end of the children's message.