

How Can Adults Welcome Children in Worship?

There is nothing like the exuberance of a child. The wonder, the enthusiasm, and the spontaneity of children reminds adults of those qualities in God – the mystery, the creative energy, the presence of God here and how in our lives. Having children in worship helps adults remember what it means to be a “child” of God.

Teaching children about worship and helping them feel comfortable in our community is not something left to parents alone. Everyone plays an important role in welcoming children and letting them know they belong in the family of faith. Below are some things adults can do to encourage children to worship:

1. Offer a smile. Let parents and children know that they are welcome. Making eye contact with a child, even from a distance, and sharing a wink or smile can have a calming effect on children.
2. Greet families after the service and tell how glad you are that they are in worship.
3. During the Passing of the Peace, greet children as well as their parents.
4. Hand offering plates to children, not over their heads.
5. Thank God for the presence and uniqueness of children in our midst.
6. Try to remember what it was like to be a child with so much wonder and so many questions, and the need to experience the world in a variety of ways. Though children may not sit perfectly still and be completely quiet, remember that they may experience God in their own way as they look for the meaning of the service. They may something to teach the rest of us!