

Resources in Ministry with Children

Books and Resources for Understanding Ministry with Children

[THE CHILDREN'S MINISTER](#)

Children yearn to be noticed and recognized as individuals who have an important place in the church. Remember the vow the congregation takes at a baptism? The church declares a commitment to be a part of the lives of the children in their midst. Senior pastors, church staff and volunteers, children's pastors will find a treasure trove of tested guidelines to help you effectively offer the presence of Christ to **children.**

[WHAT EVERY CHILD SHOULD EXPERIENCE: A GUIDE FOR TEACHERS AND LEADERS IN UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATIONS](#)

This resource contains a comprehensive guide to scripture significant for children as they develop cognitively and theologically. It is meant to closely follow the three-year lectionary cycle.

[REAL KIDS, REAL FAITH – PRACTICES FOR NURTURING CHILDREN'S SPIRITUAL LIVES](#) –

Drawn from a three-year study of children's spirituality, as well as the best in theological tradition and literature, *Real Kids, Real Faith* provides insight and a variety of helpful tips for nurturing children's spiritual and religious formation. In addition to its wealth of practical advice on how to engage children in authentic faith practice, *Real Kids, Real Faith* helps parents identify their own important role in a child's deepening life of faith.

[CHILDCARE AND THE CHURCH](#)

This is the official document of the United Methodist Church that outlines the church's responsibilities in initiating, encouraging, and participating in the highest quality of child care for children and families, not only in the local community but also nationwide.

Staff Development Resources

[SAFE SANCTUARIES® - REDUCING THE RISK OF ABUSE IN THE CHURCH FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH](#)

Practical guidance is provided in developing and implementing a substantive, holistic action plan of abuse prevention.

[GUIDELINES FOR LEADING YOUR CONGREGATION: CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES](#)

This booklet concentrates on the basics of ministry that help children grow in faith. It is the beginning point for organizing for ministry and is designed to help congregations use their own gifts to respond to God's call to care for the children, on Sunday morning, through the week and for special events.

[JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - A LEADER DEVELOPMENT GUIDE 2013 - 2016](#)

Each job description includes: Result Expected, Spiritual Gifts and Qualifications Helpful for this Position, Responsibilities, Support to Expect from the Congregation, Getting Started, People and Agencies That Can Help, and Resources for Help. The book also explores biblical roots and dimensions of leader development. It includes new thinking based on field research and

training leaders in a variety of settings.

Preschool

[BASICS IN MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN](#)

Resources, opportunities, and experiences for ministry with all children

Early Childhood Development

[THE MOST IMPORTANT SPACE IN THE CHURCH](#)

This resource emphasizes that evangelism and spiritual formation begin in the nursery. It is there that many visitors first interact with church members and experience an outpouring of warmth and acceptance — known as radical hospitality. This book presents both theological groundwork and practical applications for strengthening any church's ministry, beginning in the most important space — the nursery.

[NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN \[NAEYC\]](#)

This organization offers an annual training for educators of young children which include tracks for religious education.

[ZERO TO THREE](#)

This organization supports teachers in the area of child development through free downloadable and extensive resources.

Formational Resources

[GODLY PLAY](#)

Teaches young children the art of using religious language — parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action — helping them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives.

[THE LITTLE CHRISTIAN MAGAZINE](#)

The stories in this magazine are meant to be read by or with young children, so the text is simple or rhymed. The art is vivid, bold and engaging. The stories are faith-based, so you'll be helping to nurture a child's spiritual awareness from a young age. In addition to

stories, it contains prayers, songs, Christian biographies, activities, rituals and more to help children become aware of God's presence and activity in and around them.

[FIRST STEPS SPIRITUALITY PRAYGROUND](#)

Online "Prayground" for young children, four and older, to learn the elements of prayer

[SACRED CIRCLE TIME](#)

By Leanne Hadley

Bibles for Children 0-6

[SPARK STORY BIBLE](#) — storybook for babies through early readers

[EARLY READER'S BIBLE](#) — storybook for babies through early readers

[THE CHILDREN'S BIBLE IN 365 STORIES](#) — Bible stories for families to read together

Elementary

[BASICS IN MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN](#)

Resources, opportunities, and experiences for ministry with all children

Formational Resources

[THE WAY OF THE CHILD](#)

A formative study for children ages six through eleven that recognizes that children have an innate spirituality with a natural acceptance of mystery, an amazing capacity for awe, a vital imagination, a longing to be their unique selves, and an ability to be open to and receive God's love.

[POCKETS MAGAZINE](#)

Pockets is the devotional magazine that helps children ages six through eleven learn more about God by encouraging them to read the Bible, practice spiritual disciplines, act compassionately, and exercise their creativity.

This magazine also includes an on-line component.

Bible for Children 6 - 11

[THE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S BIBLE](#)

Translation that children can read and understand independently

[THE CHILDREN'S BIBLE IN 365 STORIES](#)

Bible stories for families to read together

[SPARK STORY BIBLE](#)

Translation for early readers

[CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION OF THE HOLY BIBLE](#)

Translated on a 3rd to 5th grade level

[COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE](#)

Fresh translation on a 5th grade level

[NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION](#)

Translation appropriate for higher-level readers and for reading along with an adult

Play for Children Newborn through Eleven

[101 GREAT GAMES FOR INFANTS, TODDLERS, AND PRESCHOOLERS: ACTIVE, BIBLE-BASED FUN FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION](#)

– Even as babies are beginning to crawl, toddlers are learning to speak, and preschoolers are starting to cooperate with playmates, they can begin to discover God's Word and God's world through play. Each game includes a Scripture passage, a teaching point, a supervision tip, materials-needed list, and game instructions.

[UNPLUGGED PLAY](#) – This book helps parents of children through eleven pull the plug on excessive electronic play with 710 games and activities that allow parents to say, "YES" to creative, active, imaginative play.

Curriculum and Formational Resources

[UNITED METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE](#)

[CURRICULUM COMPARISON CHART](#)

This chart includes curriculum approved by the Curriculum Resources Committee of the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship for use in the Christian education ministry of The United Methodist Church.

Godly Play - Teaches children as young as three the art of using religious language - parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action - helping them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives.

Downloadable Resources

[CHILDCARE AND THE CHURCH](#)

This is the official document of the United Methodist Church that outlines the church's responsibilities in initiating, encouraging, and participating in the highest quality of child care for children and families, not only in the local community but also nationwide.

[MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN NEWSLETTER](#)

Addresses topics of concern for those engaged in ministry for children. It is also available in PDF form for parents in congregations.

[MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN WEBINARS](#)

Interactive webinars are a great way to learn more about our work in ministry with children while in the comfort of our own homes or offices. Each webinar features knowledgeable and experienced people in ministry who take questions at the end of the session.

[BOOKS FOR CHILDREN](#)

A book list for children that includes formational story and picture books

[WELCOMING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS](#)

Resources for teachers, ministers, and congregations

[HELPING CHILDREN COPE AND HEAL](#)

This downloadable booklet assists those engaged in ministry with children in meeting children where they are in the grief process, and supporting them as they heal.

[DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE LIFESPAN \[CHART\]](#)

This chart outlines twelve different stages of development.

[TEACH](#)

This is a free monthly newsletter providing insights, thought-provoking observations and "I never thought of it that way" commentary on subjects Christian educators deal with every day.

Online Resources

[GENERAL BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH](#)

Resources, training, and support for leaders of children's ministries

[CHILDREN AND WORSHIP](#)

Resources that support including children in worship and the life of the congregation

[UMC MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN FORUM AND GROUP](#)

Teachers and Leaders in United Methodist congregations sharing resources, information, and ideas daily!

[UM MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN BLOG AND FORUM](#)

Support, resources, and connections for those engaged in ministry for children [0-11] and their formation

[SAFE SANCTUARIES©](#)

A guide to help congregations in make a safe place where children and youth may experience the abiding love of God and fellowship within the community of faith

[FIRST STEPS SPIRITUALITY CENTER](#)

Online "Prayground" for young children to learn the elements of prayer

Professional Development

[FIRST STEPS SPIRITUALITY CENTER](#)

The Certification Course is designed by Rev. Leanne Hadley, using the skills and techniques used at First Steps with hurting children and teens

[GODLY PLAY TRAINING](#)

The Godly Play approach teaches classical Christian language in a way that does not block or distort the child's authentic experience of God but enhances it so it can contribute to the creative life of the child and the world. It teaches children the art of using Christian language—parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action—helping them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives.

[UNITED METHODIST ASSOCIATION OF PRESCHOOL - FLORIDA](#)

Annual training for weekday preschool staff, and ongoing in-service and workshops

[CHILDREN WORSHIP AND WONDER TRAINING](#)

The Disciples of Christ offer training in Children Worship & Wonder which offers an exciting way

to approach faith formation with children. The approach recognizes children as spiritual beings who already have a relationship with God.

ARK FOR CHRISTIAN PARENTS IN CHURCHES AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

The ARK Group has developed a program called ARK (Adults Relating to Kids). The purpose of ARK is to help us adults to become the vessels through whom the unconditional love of God, revealed through the Christ, is poured into the lives of our children. Training is available through ARK

A PLACE OF OUR OWN

Ongoing televised professional development for those who educate young children

CHILDREN'S SPIRITUALITY: CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

Bi-annual conference on children's spirituality, ongoing classes, and discussion forums

CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND – PROCTOR INSTITUTE

Annual training on issues around children's advocacy and ongoing forums on children's advocacy issues

DESERT SOUTHWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE – CHILDREN AND YOUTH WORKER TRAINING

Annual training for those in ministry with children and youth

HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE – MARCH FORTH FOR CHILDREN

Annual training for those engaged in ministry with children

TENNESSEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE – TENNESSEE CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE

Annual training for weekday preschool staff

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN [NAEYC]

Annual training for educators of young children; ongoing professional development; online community forums

ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDHOOD EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL [ACEI]

Annual Training for educators of young children; radio/internet accessible lectures and discussions

Contact Information

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