

TIPS FOR PARENTING IN THE PFW SEPTEMBER 2008

Helping Children Prepare for Worship

- Establish non-verbal signals that can be used to communicate either encouragement or discouragement of behavior.
- Encourage children to take a drink and to use the bathroom before church to minimize the need to exit during the service.
- Anticipate events in the church, such as changes in the seasons, colors in the sanctuary, observance of the sacraments, and other special services. Be prepared to help explain these changes to children.

Helping Children Participate in Worship

- Welcome all children warmly by name, before and after worship, so that they feel totally included.
- Help children greet other members of the congregation and include children as introductions are made.
- Pick up a bulletin for each child. This may be one prepared especially for children or it may be the one the adults use.
- Invite children to sign and pass the friendship register.
- Share the Bible and the hymnbook with children. Help them find the readings in the Bible. Encourage them to mark the hymns that are going to be used. Assist them in following the readings or singing by using the bulletin to underline verses or stanzas.
- Assist children to rise when the congregation stands since this stretches muscles and encourages participation.
- Provide a coin for the offering to teach about sharing and stewardship. Allow children to put in their money and to help pass the plate to the next person.
- Model worship participation by taking an active part in the service as greeters and ushers. Watch for seasonal opportunities to participate.

