



Teaming up with Parent(s), Guardians, Church and Community Members

Pastor's, Christian Educator's, and volunteers interest in the children and youth has a powerful impact on their lives....but you can't do it all. Parent(s), guardians, church and community members have an impact on their life, too. A visit, card, email or phone call to the children/youth who are attending Youth Group/Church/Sunday school, gives you the opportunity to encourage the children and their families. It is also a way to show the children that they are special, God loves them and that the church community cares about them. Here are a few simple ways to make a difference in the lives of children, youth and families:

- Make a list of children and their home addresses and birthdays. Pray for each family.
- When possible meet and encourage parents as they pick up their child(ren) and youth from activities.
- If you are visiting families meet at the church and pray as a group for safety, and for God to guide you during your travel and visits.
- Go in teams of two or three:
 - Walk along the neighborhoods and pray for God's blessing on the neighborhood, the families, community.
 - Visit children by the ringing doorbell or knocking and asking for parent(s) or guardian to come outside to meet you.
 - Talk to them about something positive that you have observed in the student.
 - Ask parent(s) or guardian how you can be praying for them.
 - If you are comfortable, say a short prayer for them and the child(ren).
- Send letter or make phone call to invite students to other activities at the church, i.e. Sunday School or all church activities. Send birthday cards.
- Continue to be in relationship the children and their families by praying, calling, emailing or visiting with them.

Keep our children safe: Remember that all volunteers and church leaders need to have the following clearances before they work with children and youth:

- Go to: <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/Resources/Documents/Pdf/FillInForms/DPWchildabuse.pdf>
- Go to: <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/Resources/Documents/Pdf/FillInForms/statepolice-bkqd.pdf>

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Mark 10:14