Ways to Say: You Are Welcomed Here

Children’s Bibles in the front two pews.

Worship Bags/Child Friendly Worship Materials are Available:

* Worship bulletin
* Stuffed animals to pray with
* Prayer Shawls
* Chanille Stems
* Crayons
* Pencils
* Children’s Books

**Ways to Welcome Children into Worship:**

1. Choose hymns:
	1. that are foundational to our tradition
	2. with repeated refrains
	3. with easily accessible language and tunes
2. Cling to the rhythms of our church year and weekly worship
	1. liturgical calendar – sights and sounds
	2. liturgy – children appreciate predictability. I know how to do this, this is my job…
3. Use examples that access the child in all of us. The beauty of an illustration from childhood, youth, is that not only the children get it, but those of us who were once children/youth get it too.
4. Bulletins for the summer – integrate children’s bulletin into the adult bulletin as a message that we are all worshipping together.
5. Use children’s art in the bulletin.
6. Don’t dumb it down. Children may not get everything, don’t need to get everything. What will they get? I was greeted by the adults around me. I sat next to my dad and he helped me find the hymns. I heard a familiar story. I heard a beautiful hymn and knew some of the words.
7. Worship is interactive, multi-sensory, and uses multiple intelligences. In worship we stand up, sit down, use our voices, use our ears, use our hands, use our eyes. Worship is by its nature age appropriate for children, youth and adults. Think about integrating a worship response that uses our hands: Lord, Listen to your Children Praying… Gloria… Alleluia.
8. Having children in worship does not mean we have chaos in worship. We still emphasize worship manners.