

EXTRA RESOURCE A — CHILDCARE

CHILDCARE IDEAS

When your small group includes parents with younger kids, childcare is one of the most important challenges to support a successful group. While each group is unique, there are others trying to solve a similar puzzle. Different group leaders have found some of the below suggested solutions—or a mix of solutions—helpful. These suggestions provided are intended as starting points. We encourage you to adopt, adapt, and remix these ideas to suit your group's needs and share any innovative approaches you discover with us, so we can pass along these ideas to others!



HIRING YOUR OWN BABYSITTER

The group hires 1 - 2 trusted babysitters, with each family pitching in to pay the babysitter(s). Some groups do this at the host home, if space allows; others drop off the kids at a nearby house belonging to another group member.

PROS: Convenient; pay-as-you-go; kids get to experience community, too

CONS: Difficult to do if you don't have babysitters in your social circles

ZOOM / VIDEO CONFERENCE

Other groups, especially those with young kids with early bed times, prefer to meet over video conference call after the kids are in bed. This works better for groups who already have a degree of relationship.

PROS: No cost. Low impact. Every adult can participate.

CONS: Kids aren't around others, doesn't work as well for newly forming groups.

PARTNER WITH ANOTHER FAMILY

Consider partnering with another family whose group meets on another night by swapping childcare duties so that both families can participate.

PROS: No cost.

CONS: Requires two nights of commitment.

CUSTOM MIX

You know your small group and your available resources. With that knowledge, be empowered to use any combination of the above solutions to make a custom plan that best serves your small group. For example, some groups alternate in-person meetings one week, and video calls the next. Other groups meet at a park together with the kids. Use your judgment and problem solve with the group, which will increase buy-in from your group members.

ROTATING FOCUS

- Week 1: Meet as adults (each family finding their own childcare)
- Week 2: Women meet while men watch the kids at home.
- Week 3: Men meet while women watch the kids at home.
- Week 4: Everyone, including the kids, meet for a meal.

PROS: Adults get a deeper discussion with others of the same gender; kids get time with their parents and get to know other Christian adults

CONS: The entire group doesn't gather at the same time as often; potentially longer periods when group members miss their week (for example, when a husband misses the men's week to meet)

ROTATING CHILDCARE

Some groups choose to take care of their childcare by rotating individuals or couples responsible to watch all the kids in the group.

PROS: Free; kids get to know other Christian adults, minimizes impact on adult community

CONS: One person or couple misses the group any given week

“

Instead of fighting our kids' natural rhythms, we roll with it. Kids come in crazy, we break the ice. Kids play, we discuss. At the end we bring the kids in and all share a meal together.

— Patrick & Kim