

Creative Prayer

Acknowledging that people pray in different ways, you might like to be more creative. The following ideas could be used with all ages and in various settings:

Prayer stations

Set up different zones around the room. You could for example use different children's toys at each station to pray for the different aspects of the group. This is great if you run as a 'drop-in' session. People can then circulate and pray at their own pace.

Prayer walk

Stroll around the local area and be inspired to pray by the places that you pass. These might include the local park, baby clinic or day-care centre.

Visual prayers

Light candles, plant seeds, put prayers on sticky notes on the wall or hang them on a branch or washing line or link them together to make a paper chain.

Resources

Check out www.1277.org.uk

There is a 1277 National Month Of Prayer Facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1427440174229352/>

Let's Get Praying



make them count

National Network of Church-based Toddler Groups

The National Month of Prayer provides a focus for both individuals and churches to support our Church-based Toddler Groups.

This leaflet contains some ideas to help you plan your event.

Get your church praying

Choose a date in June to spend some time during your Church Service praying for toddler groups or even dedicate the whole service to them.

It might be a good idea to start by letting people know what happens at your own group:

- *Produce a slide-show of photographs*
- *Invite the children to perform a song or display their crafts. You could make a handprint tree together using the instructions on the 1277 website*
- *Interview a parent or carer asking them what they like about the group or produce a vox pop video*

You can then use the 1277 prayer powerpoint (available from the website) to lead the church in prayer.

Pray on your own...or in a group

Inviting people to a prayer event is a great way to network.

Gather together with food; you could have a bring-and-share lunch, afternoon tea or cakes.

People you could invite:

- *The toddler group team*
- *Anyone involved in pre-school ministry e.g. the Sunday creche team or nursery staff*
- *Christian mums, dads & carers from your toddler group*
- *Leaders from other church-based toddler groups in the area*

To avoid the risk of just chatting and running out of time to pray, it may be helpful to plan the time, for example:

- *Prayers for the children*
- *Prayers for the parents, carers and families*
- *Prayers for the toddler group leaders*
- *Prayers for the communities you are part of*

You might like to ask different people to lead each section.

The 1277 prayer powerpoint has some ideas.

There's also a small prayer card available on the 1277 website for you to hand out to remind people to continue praying for the toddler groups

Involve the children

Let the children know that people will be praying for them and their families.

Ask them to draw themselves or write their name on a stone or paper chain link as a visual aid. You could provide chains of paper people and include the names of their whole family.

It's important to give children the opportunity to pray too. There's a leaflet with creative ideas for praying with children and a prayer card for children on the 1277 website.

Ensure that the children are involved in everything that you do, especially any church services.