



Notes to parents & carers regarding our children's work

What do we aim to provide at Highway?

A safe and secure environment for all children who are part of our Church family through the following activities

+ **Family all-age worship** – we aim to provide children ways into worshipping God on a Sunday morning, through the choice of songs that we sing together, as well as through a provision of space where they can dance using banners and ribbons to express their love for God.

+ **Separate children's worship** – occasionally we will take the children out of our all age service on a Sunday morning to have a time of praise and worship designed just for them in the small hall to which parents are very welcome.

+ **Crèche – for 0-2 / 3's**, where children and babies are happy to be left with a crèche worker, or a place where mum/dad or a carer can be with their child. We will provide a room where they can play and develop their relationship with others and God.

+ **J Team – for 2 / 3-5's**, where children are ready to be left; no longer need one to one attention, and are ready and willing to join in activities and group work with others. We will provide a room where they through play, stories and songs develop and grow in their relationship with others and God.

+ **Y Team 1 & 2** – where children are more independent and are ready to work with others, and join in fully with activities and group work. We will provide a room where they can be taught Biblical truth, through relationships with a focus on life-skills for everyday Christian living.

We use ages here as a rough guide to stages of each child's development, recognising that each child is different.

We have a policy to police check all those who work with our children, and we work with children throughout the church according to our Child Protection Policy.

As children's workers...

+ We are working to build partnerships with you as a parent/carer to see Jesus come alive in children's hearts and minds, so they fall deeper and more passionately in love with Him. We aim to work alongside parents/carers in seeing the child's spiritual development, recognising that each child is their parent/carers responsibility.

+ With children aged 3 and under it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to bring their child to the Crèche and to collect them at the end. Children going to J Team and the Y Teams group can leave with the leader if the parent/carer agree. Children in these groups will be brought back to parents at the end of their session. We will see that children make contact with the person responsible for them, so we have handed them over to you. If the parent/carer is in the middle of some ministry we will keep the child with us until they have finished.

+ If a child is distressed at any point in our time with them then we will come and ask the parent/carer to come and see their child. We want children's time at church to be a positive experience, never a negative.

+ If a child is poorly behaved, and does not respond to us, then we will ask the parent/carer to come out and deal with their child. Our groups are not about keeping children amused so that adults can listen to the message (sermon), but rather a place for children to discover the word of God too.

+ If we have any concerns generally about a child in our group then we will liaise with the parent/carer. We want good relationships to be developed and nurtured. So if you ever discover something that the child has really enjoyed or been inspired or challenged by we would love to know about it.

+ Our teams are committed to praying for our children here at Highway, we hope that you will pray regularly for us too!