TOP 10 TIPS  WORKING WITH CHILDREN

1. **PRAY** for the children in your church, those who lead and those who may become leaders, for families and local schools and children’s groups. Pray for children you see in the street and on news programmes; for those who are hungry or overweight; those who are bullied and those who are ignored; those who are frightened and those who are famous; those who are homeless and those oppressed by wealth. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

www.childrenssociety.org.uk

2. **WELCOME** each child with delight for you are welcoming them in Jesus’ name – and remember to invite those who are not yet part of your church. Mark 9:37

3. **INVOLVE** children in worship whenever possible. Children grow in faith as they follow the role-modelling of others. Leviticus 9:5

4. **PROVIDE** good quality resources and meeting spaces for children. It is hard to glimpse the full majesty of God when looking at a photocopier or sitting on grubby carpet. If adults enjoy stained glass windows … Philippians 4:18

5. **PLAN** rich experiences for children that change as they age. Avoid asking children to follow the same teaching material and learning activities at 9 that they first met aged 4 – they will be bored. Ephesians 4:13

www.going4growth.org.uk is the national Church of England website supporting work with children in churches and schools.

www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk provides free ideas for a huge range of occasions and Bible material.

6. **ALLOW** children to contribute to the spiritual life of the group and provide insights for the leaders. The Holy Spirit speaks through children in many ways. Matthew 21:16

7. **INCLUDE** children in church decision-making as it will help them mature in discipleship. Deuteronomy 6:6-7

8. **ENJOY** the opportunity to worship and learn in the full range of visual, auditory, kinaesthetic, active, joyous ways that are the preference of children (and many adults). Mark 12:30

9. **HELP** children to know God, rather than teaching them about God. Mark 10:13-16

10. **THANK GOD** for the blessing and joy of children. Psalm 127:3

Top Ten Tips is a series of short lists that link church life to growth. They are not definitive but may be useful for planning.

www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/toptentips