

MOSAIC COMMUNITY

6 Childcare options/ideas

One of the big logistical challenges of doing adult community comes in answering the question: “How are we going to best care for our kids?” We want to provide 6 options that other groups have used to aid you in coming to a solution for your group.

Two important things to consider:

THE WHAT: What is your program strategy with the kids? Each week, our Family Team sends home follow-up lessons for discussion. We suggest taking these and working them out in further detail in conjunction with the weekly Connect Sheet. Another great resource the Mosaic Family Team recommends is the Jesus Storybook Bible.

THE WHERE: Location is important for kids. Most groups make this decision based on what is available. If the hosting house has a large enough room separate from the adults, then that can be effective. Other groups choose assigned leaders for the night and send kids with them to another house within walking distance. Whatever you choose, be sure the room is safe, spacious, and bathroom accessible. It is a sure win if your group is close to a playground or area where kids can “just be kids” (no need to come up with weekly activities).

1. Childcare rotation

- Have one administrative person in your group make a schedule and assign 2-4 people each meeting to be in charge of children. We suggest to not schedule both spouses the same night so that at least one is able to be a part of the discussion. If there are several kids, consider having a “big kids” group and a “little kids” group with the break age being kindergarten.

2. Outside childcare

- Several groups ask each couple with children to contribute \$5-\$10 a meeting to hire a babysitter. We have several high school and college students that would welcome this opportunity (many of whom are saving money for mission trips!). These groups often choose to meet every other week due to the cost of childcare. Suggestion: use the same students/childcare as much as possible. That will keep the headache of scheduling down and give the childcare workers a chance to really get to know the kids.

3. Weekly rotation

- Some of our groups have gotten creative with their gathering strategies to work with the childcare need. For instance: 1st week: just men meet, 2nd week: just women, 3rd week: just adults (get baby sitters), 4th week: all family meal. While there are drawbacks to this plan, it keeps gathering fresh and interesting, simplifies scheduling and you are only paying for childcare once a month.

4. “Get your own” childcare

- Some groups have decided that they all get childcare on their own every week. We recommend this be a special occasion strategy rather than a weekly strategy as it simply isn’t ideal for new people interested in joining the group.

5. Include them in

- It has worked well at times to plan the large group gatherings around a family meal and a larger family group discussion. This tends to work better when kids are still babies or above the kindergarten age (sorry toddler families). That way, when the meal is over, older kids can entertain themselves with games or an appropriate movie.

6. Partner group

- Find a partner group and trade childcare with them. (Someone from group A watches B kids Monday nights, and someone from group B watches A kids on Thursday nights. Or...each group goes every other week, watching kids on “off week”) You’re always at your own group, and you’re serving another group. If two larger groups serve one another, an individual might only serve their friends 1-2x/semester!