



Opening CW&W Centers During CoVid-19

Before Children Come into the Rooms. Here are some areas to Consider:

- 1) Adequate Space. Does your Children Worship & Wonder room have adequate space to keep the children 3 ft apart? Remember it is ok to keep family groups close together. If you need to move to a larger space, you might need a microphone and speaker system so children can hear you.
- 2) Supplies to consider for purchase: thermometer, latex gloves, face shields for storytellers, disposable masks for adults and children, hand sanitizer, Lysol spray/wipes, disposable arm bands in various colors.
- 3) Consider clearing the room of soft objects. Because germs tend to stick on soft surfaces longer and harder to clean, we recommend removing pillows and rugs. Replace the rugs with yoga mats. Helpful Hint: Buy inexpensive yoga mats and cut them in half for each child. Yoga mats are easy to wipe down and store. If you are using towels in your center, designate someone to wash each week.
- 4) Vaccinations. Does the CW&W team have vaccinations? What is the policy of the leadership team in your church regarding vaccinations? To protect those most vulnerable, do you want to recommend vaccinations before your team works with children?
- 5) Art Trays. Greeters will need to have prepared art materials on a tray or tub for each child/family unit. This will eliminate children using the same materials that have been handled by others.
- 6) Safe Space. Please remove any manipulatives that might have been used with Safe Spaces. (Unless you have a greeter that will sanitize between each child that uses the space). Many children might experience some social emotional signs of distress. This past year young children have been with a parent or caregiver 24/7, so you might see some separation anxiety. Have your safe space comfortable for those that might be sad or missing mom and dad/grandparent/foster parent. We recommend having a greeter assigned to the safe space.
- 7) No mask break space. This is what it says, have a space dedicated to the child or volunteer having a moment to removing their mask. We also recommend having a greeter assigned to the No Mask Break space. This could be the same one dedicated to the Safe space.

Welcoming Children into the Room. Here are some practices to consider:

- 1) Letter to Parent or Caregiver. When you announce the opening of your CW&W Centers or spaces, please send a letter to the families to let know of the new practices that will take place. You might invite the families for a tour or open house to introduce them to new space and or practices. Create a video that they can watch together before they come back to church. Introduce new storytellers or greeters.
- 2) Greet your families and children with a warm greeting and have them check in with temperature checks and hand sanitizing and a phone number you can reach the parents/caregivers. Your center may want to introduce an arm band system.

For Example: Red/Pink arm band means My family is of a strict no touch practice. We have immunocompromised members that need protection. We can do air hugs or air high fives.

Green/Blue: My family can have limited appropriate touch. Our family is ok with some limited touch with fist bumps or high fives.

- 3) Churches might start reopening with a sign-up system so you may not have everyone at your CW&W centers at the same time. We recommend a condensed re-orientation at the beginning of each session for a few weeks. Please adapt into your worship schedule any changes you have made and introduce those changes to the children in the worship center.

Here is language that you can use:

The worship center is a very special place. It is a special place to be with God. In this place we have all the time we need. So we don't need to hurry. We can walk more slowly. And we talk more softly, because someone might be talking with God, and we do not want to disturb them. This is a special place to be with God, to talk with God, to listen to God and to hear the stories of God. So we need a way to get ready to be in such a special place. You can get ready all by yourself. You do not need me to tell you to get ready. But I can show you how to get ready to be with God.

Quietness come from inside you, not from someone telling you to be quiet. You can get quiet all by yourself. (pg. 71-72, session 4, Young Children and Worship)

- 4) If you are going to practice the feast, have each child hand sanitize with sanitizer or wipes before feast. We recommend to not have any passing around of offering trays or children handing out feast materials. The greeters will need to have pre-prepared feast materials ready to pass to the children. If you choose not to practice feast/communion, maybe use these words for feast time: "Let us feast/share with one another about our week....."

Have feast foods, cheese, apples, and/or crackers in a single container for each child. Proportion out individual servings in disposable or recyclable dixie cups.

- 5) If you have more than one session for multiple church services, you will need the storytellers and greeters to sanitize between each session the yoga mats, and any heavy traffic touch surfaces.

After the children leave, practices to consider:

- 1) In studies now it seems that the virus does not live more than 72 hours. If stories are only used one day a week you would not have to re-clean. Your worship center may have a 'used' or 'to be cleaned' shelf that the Greeter or volunteers can sanitize.

Use $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of bleach and one gallon of water mixture (follow the directions on the bleach for mixture) or bleach wipes. Use this to spray or wipes on items that need to be sanitized. Air dry or leave on for several minutes.

Lysol spray can be used on the sand in the desert box, felt pieces, and any other materials that cannot be wiped or sprayed down with the bleach mixture.

Please do not use the bleach or Lysol spray together or in the presence of children.

- 2) Your center probably needs some system of tracking attendance with an eye on contact tracing.