

# Community Groups:

## Childcare Details

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### Childcare Options for Small Groups

One of the significant challenges of small group ministry is how to make it work for families with young children (with which God has blessed our church in a tremendous way!). There is no easy solution or one right way to go about making it possible for these families to be involved, but it can be done! Here are some possible ways to provide childcare:

**Participation model:** Children attend the small group and participate with the group throughout the meeting time.

**Individual sitters:** Everyone in the group with children finds and hires their own sitters.<sup>1</sup> Some groups that choose this option also plan a quarterly family time where all the families meet together for a meal and time of fellowship.

- *Advantages: Meetings are uninterrupted and every member gets to participate in every meeting.*
- *Disadvantages: The expense involved and the potential difficulty of finding a sitter every time the group meets.*
- **The elders have budgeted \$200 per group (per year) to help offset the cost of hiring a babysitter. Please contact the church secretaries at [secretary@fbccincy.org](mailto:secretary@fbccincy.org) to access those funds.**

**Rotating childcare responsibilities:** All the children come with their parents to the small group. Parents rotate the responsibility of watching the children in a different room of the house/building (or different location, i.e. the home of whoever will be providing childcare) at each meeting.

- *Advantages: It is free! It can also give group members a chance to interact with and get to know children from other families.*
- *Disadvantages: Members must periodically miss a meeting. This is especially significant when a group only meets once or twice a month.*

**Alternating weeks between spouses:** The women of the group get together the first and third week of the month while the children stay home and have special time with Dad. The men get together the second and the fourth week of the month while the children stay home and have special time with Mom. Periodically (possibly months when there is a fifth week for group night), the entire group comes together. Another variation would be the women meet one week, the men meet the following week, and childcare is arranged for the third week so the whole group is able to meet together.

- *The advantages and disadvantages are similar to the previous options.*

**Meet later in the evening:** For families with young children, it might be possible to meet later in the evening so that children can be put to bed before the meeting begins. This would require meeting in the home of the family who has children or having sufficient space and bedding to put visiting children down to sleep.

- *Advantages: It is free, meetings are (potentially) uninterrupted, and everyone get to participate in all the meetings.*
- *Disadvantages: A later meeting may not work for members who need to be at work early the following morning. Also, some children may have difficulty falling asleep in a location away from home.*

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The key is figuring out what works BEST for the members in your group. Be creative and willing to approach this as an opportunity to serve one another!

*If, then, there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others. Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus...*

— *Philippians 2:1-5*