

Setting All Kids Up For Success

Sometimes the simplest things can make the biggest difference. When it comes to welcoming children into church, being intentional about setting them up for success is very important.

1. Set The Tone Early

Greet each child with a warm smile at the door. Be even more intentional to spend time greeting a child who has a history of having a hard time in class. Sometimes children who have challenges expect to get in trouble or be misunderstood when they go somewhere new. By making sure they feel welcome and wanted, we can begin to help change the way they see the world. This will also set the tone for the experience on a positive note.

2. Set Specific Expectations

Explain to children what is expected. If they make an inappropriate choice, don't just tell them to stop. Tell them what positive choice they can make instead. Model the behavior for visual learners.

3. Set the Focus on the Positive

Give praise often. Find any positive behaviors a child has made and point these out. This will help to set a positive tone and clearly explain expectations.

One More Thing...

Set parents up for success too by sharing something great that their child did in class. Parents of children who sometimes struggle need to hear this. Never underestimate the power of kind words.