

Baptist churches are renowned for toddler groups – mums and tots, carers and toddlers, grandparents and grandchildren, dads and little ones, ‘special’ toddlers and even twins’ groups! Research carried out in 2006, indicated that 28,000 adults and 36,000 young children attend a Baptist church toddler group each week. Clearly these groups are doing well in serving their communities, providing a welcoming, enjoyable and safe environment.

- **Toddler Group Rocks**

We have now held three **Toddler Group Rocks!** days for ministers and toddler group leaders, looking at the ‘stepping stones’ that can be added to toddler groups to make them crossingplaces . . . No further days are planned at the present time, but keep checking the Events page of the website for new dates, or sign up to receive [mission scene](#) to hear about forthcoming events and resources.

Following the first Toddler Group Rocks! Day in 2010, **Fishpond’s Baptist Church in Bristol** started a **Dads and Toddlers Group** which is proving to be a great success.

Minister Darren Smith tells us: ‘We started it in September [2010] and now have 40 children on the books, with about 25 who turned up last month. We run it on the first Saturday of the month, complete with bacon butties and newspapers available.

‘I’m currently arranging an evening in a local curry house for which 18 of the dads have signed up. There’s no doubt that some good relationships are being built.

‘Right now the whole Toddler Time scene is growing at the church with our weekly Monday and Friday group regularly getting close to our ‘maximum’ of 40. We are thinking of having a third day to cater for those on our waiting list.’

Toddlers

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- **Toddler Group Mission File**

The **Toddler Group Mission File** offers practical ideas and inspiring stories to help you develop your church's Toddler Group. It also includes an extensive list of other resources which you might find helpful.

Download this resource here: 

[Toddler Groups](#)

- **Baby Bible group launched at Norwich church**

A Norwich church is starting up a new baby and toddler group to help both parents and children to connect with God. The sessions include a simple Bible story for the children with a related craft activity, whilst the parents read from the Bible, pray together and discuss the passage. [Click here](#) for more information.

- **Praying for Toddler Groups**

A National Day of Prayer for Church-based Toddler Groups was held at the end of National Family Week on Sunday 5 June. This PowerPoint was produced for the day, but can be adapted for use on other occasions to help focus your prayers for toddler groups: [Toddler Group Prayer Day](#)

Further resources are available from [Scripture Union](#).

- **Building Blocks**

[Building Blocks](#) is an invaluable training resource for all those working in church-based toddler groups, or thinking about starting one, and will help your group to become more missional. You can [download this resource free of charge](#), or contact the [Mission Department](#) to request a copy.

- **Early Years Education**

During the early years children develop spiritually but they need opportunities to do so. The Education Working Group has developed this resource to help your church find opportunities to contribute to children's development and offer support to those who already provide it.

Download this resource here: [Early Years](#)

- **Wellsprings**

As part of the *crossingplaces* initiative, the Mission Department is helping churches to see toddler groups not only as missional in their own right but also as a key way of building up a relationship with the adults present in order to help them on a journey of faith. The Department has recently published [Wellsprings](#) as an eight-week low-key evangelistic course built on thinking about wellbeing and enjoying some pampering to which the women can be invited.

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The Baptist Union is a partner organisation of 1277 - Make them Count!

National Strategy for Christian Toddler Groups

This is a gathering of specialists from all the major denominations and non-denominational organisations



[Who Let The Dads Out?](#) is a national initiative all about creating space where dads and their young children can have fun together and is founded on the Christian principle of wanting to demonstrate God's love to communities. [Click here](#) for further information to discover how your church can apply to become a member of Who Let The Dads

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Out? It is free to join, but once a member, you will be able to use the Who Let The Dads Out? national initiative name and logo, materials, publicity, log on to the forum for ideas and download the 'Daddy Cool!' parenting programme. For more information, see [WLTDG Welcome Pack](#)