



# LIBERTI

## COLLINGSWOOD

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*Hello, Parents!*

*Memorial Day Weekend is in the past, and that means that summer is here. As we've been communicating via multiple channels, starting on June 1, Liberti Kids will be on break until September. In order to prepare for this shift in rhythms, I've been working on a "tips and tricks" handout and have pieced together a few things. Here you go!*

- Practical Tips for Preparing Your Child to Sit in the "Big Service":  
(Borrowed from Phylicia Masonheimer...)
- Talk about the experience at home. I cannot emphasize enough how vital it is to teach WHAT church is and why it matters. It's not a legalistic duty! It's not a show! It's not a social club! It's a family of people who love Jesus and show that love to each other and to the world. It's where we get trained in the truth so we can love effectively. Adults go for that training and community, and we bring kids along because this is the foundation! So talk about that as you attend.
- Teach respect and honor. We respect and honor the Lord who loves us, and so we respect and honor other image bearers: parents, siblings, friends and strangers. At church, this includes the people in front of and behind us. It includes the pastor. Practice appropriate voices and words for the church setting. Explain why you do it.
- Practice BEFORE you get to church. Walk your child(ren) through the service. Start fun and silly. We stand and sing, we sit and listen, then we stand and sing again, then we sit and pray, then we find our friends and shake their hands. Practice shaking hands. Then explain that after shaking hands, we sit down in our seats and we prepare to be calm and listen to the person preaching. We give them our respect through quiet voices and still bodies. Explain what they WILL be allowed to do; for instance, you will get a snack and you can play with the sticker book! If you can make it this far, the rest of the service will breeze by. I also like to let my kid know that after church we will be able to run outside with our friends. After all this, when we FINALLY get to church, your child will know what to expect around them AND what you expect of them.
- Bring an "Activity Bag":
  - Liberti Kids will provide:
  - Clipboards with a Coloring Sheet, a Sermon Notes paper, and crayons.
  - Suggestions for Parents to Bring:
    - Quiet toys: fidget spinners, doodle boards, stickers.

- Avoid: toys with lots of pieces, balls, cars.
    - They will end up on the floor and under the pews behind you.
  - Snacks: pretzels, apple sauce pouch, granola bar, etc
    - Avoid: loud/messy foods.
- Cry Rooms:
  - We will be using the Infant Nursery as a cry room. The service will be live streamed through Youtube on an iPad along with a Bluetooth speaker hooked up, with a 2 minute delay.
  - Please monitor your child(ren) at all times while in the cry room.
  - Rough housing is not permitted. This includes running, throwing, and kicking.
  - Please hold off on bringing personal toys/materials into the nursery. The toys in the infant nursery are safe for babies. Bringing in personal toys could result in choking. This includes coloring materials that could end up in tinier hands.
  - The cry room is to remain NUT FREE, since we have children in LK with severe nut allergies.
  - Please take a few minutes at the end of the service to clean up the cry room, including vacuuming if necessary!
  - Free advice for the Cry Room:
    - Refrain from taking your child to the cry room AS SOON AS they are disruptive. Try taking them into the hallway and calming them down and reminding them what they are to do. If the problems persist, then head to the Cry Room. Try to have your child sit 5 min the first week, 10 min the second, 15 min the third week, and so on.
    - I recommend this methodology in order to prevent your child from learning bad habits. If your child is disruptive and you immediately take them to a room with toys, then they will learn that if I talk or cry, then mom and dad will let me play with toys. Work with them to be able to sit for longer as the summer progresses.
    - That being said, there will probably be that one Sunday where you will be tired and your child will melt. THAT is why the Cry Room is there, so that you have space to regroup and listen to the sermon.
- Extra Resources
  - <https://gospelreformation.net/let-the-children-worship/?print=print>
  - <https://banneroftruth.org/us/resources/articles/2024/corporate-worship-10-benefits-for-our-children/?srsltid=AfmBOooiC8cxABRWWDJ0IW-YyvJgXzDb333LDp3tE1sQKACnzolrMh1>
  - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/children-worship-plan/>
  - <https://www.ashlandlex.org/2019/10/practical-tools-to-help-children-in-corporate-worship/>
  - <https://reformedmargins.com/place-for-children-corporate-worship-1/>

*All of the Liberti Kids supplies will be in the foyer at Holy Trinity: there will be a table with all the supplies for the day. Please take what you need and return things to their proper bins at the end of the service. I'll be sure to restock the table week to week with different coloring pages and occasional goodies.*

*If you have any questions, or require additional resources, feel free to reach out! Thank you all for being a part of what we do with Liberti Kids.*

