

## Overview:

### Children's App

#### Why use this App?

Jesus Himself held children in high esteem, saying that we should become like them! Many of you young women will one day be mothers and others may work in professions which will involve interaction with young children. This App is designed to help you develop skills that will help you to understand the needs and responsibilities associated with such roles. The App explores practical tasks such as baby care and running a children's party. It also introduces you to issues such as 'How much TV should my child watch?' and 'How can I choose toys and games that will benefit my child?'

#### How do I use it?

The App is split into five programmes. Each one should take four to six hours.

#### The programmes:

<b>There's more to it than cuddles</b>	(Baby care)
<b>Pass the parcel</b>	(Children's parties)
<b>Once upon a time</b>	(Story time)
<b>Playtime</b>	(Toys and games)
<b>Watch with mother</b>	(Children's TV)

Each programme presents you with a challenge. Here are the five challenges from the Children's App:

Your challenge:	<b>There's more to it than cuddles</b> (Baby care). Everyone loves a baby but there is much more to it than cuddles! Your challenge is to try to understand the needs of new parents and their babies.
Your challenge:	<b>Pass the parcel</b> (Children's parties). Parties can be fun, but what makes a good party? Explore the elements of good parties and get involved in using or sharing this information.
Your challenge:	<b>Once upon a time</b> (Story time). Engage in an activity that helps you think about what makes a good children's story.
Your challenge:	<b>Playtime</b> (Toys and Games) Investigate the vast selection of toys and games that are available for children and develop an understanding of the value of each.
Your challenge:	<b>Watch with Mother</b> (Children's TV) We live in a society where some children are left to watch television alone. Research the effect of children's television on young viewers.

**Children's App:**  
**Your challenge:**

**There's more to it than cuddles:** (Baby care)

Everyone loves a baby but there is much more to it than cuddles! Your challenge is to try to understand the needs of new parents and their babies.

**Ideas:**

These ideas suggest ways in which you might accomplish the challenge, but you may do it any way you like. You could:

- Think about all the preparations needed before and after the arrival of a baby. Discuss this with prospective mums or dads and produce an information leaflet suitable for expectant parents.
- Investigate the childcare facilities in your local area. Make a booklet that could be used to inform new parents of the services available to them.
- Study the development of a baby from birth to one year - make a visual presentation of your findings.
- Have some knowledge of how to care for a baby - create a diary to show your knowledge.
- Visit a series of homes where there are young children and get involved in practical child care e.g. changing nappies, giving a bottle feed, bath time and sterilising equipment.

**Set the scene:**

Think/talk through what the challenge is about. These questions might help you:

- What do you already know about the subject and what else do you need to find out?
- Where might you find out more information?
- What useful skills/contacts do you/other members of your group possess to help with this challenge?
- What difficulties do you think you might face?

**Design:**

Study some of the information you have gathered and consider how you will complete the challenge.

**Who?** Do you need anyone to help/train/supervise/advise you?

**What?** What special equipment/space/advice do you need to complete the challenge?

**How much?** What costs might be involved and how will this funding be found?

**When?** Are there any dates or time scales you must set in order to ensure you meet your deadlines?

**Investigate the Christian perspective:**

- Find out what the Bible/other Christians say about this topic.
- What makes a Christian home different from a non-Christian home?
- Discuss the difference between christenings, dedications and naming ceremonies.
- Attend a baby's christening or dedication. Find out how the church keeps in contact with the family.

**Respond:** Make it happen! Put your plan into action and complete the challenge.

**Evaluate**

Think through how successful you have been with this challenge. Consider:

- What do you think you have learnt through working on this challenge?
- Which skills, talents or abilities did you use in your involvement in this project?
- Did your project have an impact on other people and did it help them?
- How has this challenge given you a Christian perspective on issues which you face in everyday life?

**Children's App:**  
**Your challenge:**

**Pass the Parcel:** (Children's parties)

Parties can be fun, but what makes a good party? Explore the elements of good parties and get involved in using or sharing this information.

**Ideas:**

These ideas suggest ways in which you might accomplish the challenge, but you may do it any way you like. You could:

- Research what children like to do at parties - thinking about different ages and the type of parties enjoyed by girls and boys.
- Plan and organise a children's party for the younger children in your organisation.
- Investigate what local facilities/party venues are available for children's parties in your area. Report your findings, including costs, availability and facilities.
- Find out if there are any local children's entertainers, review what there is on offer. Learn to balloon model/do tricks/juggle/present a puppet show and arrange to use your new skill at a children's party.
- Children love to have novelty cakes. Explore the possibilities and enjoy making a range of novelty cakes for children.

**Set the scene**

Think/talk through what the challenge is about. These questions might help you:

- What do you already know about the subject and what else do you need to find out?
- Where might you find out more information?
- What useful skills/contacts do you/members of your group possess to help with this challenge?
- What difficulties do you think you might face?

**Design:**

Study some of the information you have gathered and consider how you will complete the challenge.

**Who?** Do you need anyone to help/train/supervise/advise you?

**What?** What special equipment/space/advice do you need to complete the challenge?

**How much?** What costs might be involved and how will this funding be found?

**When?** Are there any dates or time scales you must set in order to ensure you meet your deadlines?

**Investigate the Christian perspective**

Find out what the Bible/other Christians say about this topic.

- Read the words of Jesus quoted in Acts Ch.20:35.
- Discuss this verse in the context of children and parties e.g. the common expectation that everyone who goes to a party will get something in a party bag.
- Research the times that Jesus talked about, or was involved in, celebrations and consider issues of Christian lifestyle that can be demonstrated in our approach to parties e.g. fair play in games, use of music with inappropriate lyrics and who we invite etc.

**Respond:** Make it happen! Put your plan into action and complete the challenge.

**Evaluate:**

Think through how successful you have been with this challenge. Consider:

- What do you think you have learnt through working on this challenge?
- Which skills, talents or abilities did you use in your involvement in this project?
- Did your project have an impact on other people and did it help them?
- How has this challenge given you a Christian perspective on issues that you face in everyday life?

**Children's App:**  
**Your challenge:**

**Once upon a time:** (Story time)

Engage in an activity that helps you think about what makes a good children's story.

**Ideas:**

These ideas suggest ways in which you might accomplish the challenge, but you may do it any way you like. You could:

- Get some tips for effective story-telling from a good story-teller. Practice telling/reading stories to your friends. Choose a familiar story and prepare a visual aid (e.g. puppets, illustrations or PowerPoint presentation) to help you present your story. Then using your aids, retell the story to a group of younger children.
- Write/illustrate a children's story and produce it as a book.
- Prepare a questionnaire to find out children's favourite story books and what they like about them. Remember to research a cross section of ages and genders. Report/present your findings to a group of interested people.
- Investigate what local story-telling facilities are available and how they are publicised e.g. library, children's centres, college and church. If possible, visit such a session or run one yourself.
- Organise a book swap table for the younger members of your group. Write simple reviews/flyers to go with the books to advertise them to others.

**Set the scene:**

Think/talk through what the challenge is about. These questions might help you:

- What do you already know about the subject and what else do you need to find out?
- Where might you find out more information?
- What useful skills/contacts do you/other members of your group possess to help with this challenge?
- What difficulties do you think you might face?

**Design:**

Study some of the information you have gathered and consider how you will complete the challenge.

**Who?** Do you need anyone to help/train/supervise/advise you?

**What?** What special equipment/space/advice do you need to complete the challenge?

**How much?** What costs might be involved and how will this funding be found?

**When?** Are there any dates or time scales you must set in order to ensure you meet your deadlines

**Investigate the Christian perspective:**

Find out what the Bible/other Christians say about this topic.

- Look in your Bible at some of the stories Jesus told and discuss how Jesus used these stories.
- Choose a familiar parable e.g. the lost sheep. Read the story in the Bible and gather a range of children's story books which tell this story. Compare how effectively the story and its message are communicated in the different versions.
- Invite a minister/children's worker/local preacher/worship leader to talk about how they use stories to communicate the Christian message.

**Respond:** Make it happen! Put your plan into action and complete the challenge.

**Evaluate:**

Think through how successful you have been with this challenge. Consider:

- What do you think you have learnt through working on this challenge?
- Which skills, talents or abilities did you use in your involvement in this project?
- Did your project have an impact on other people and did it help them?
- How has this challenge given you a Christian perspective on issues that you face in everyday life?

**Children's App:**  
**Your challenge:**

**Playtime:** (Toys and games)

Investigate the vast selection of toys and games that are available for children and develop an understanding of the value of each.

**Ideas:**

These ideas suggest ways in which you might accomplish the challenge, but you may do it any way you like. You could:

- Choose a different toy/game each week and play with it! Identify the skills and attitudes each one develops in children. Create a chart, pamphlet or checklist showing young mums the potential of the different games/toys you have researched.
- Observe some children playing with toys and identify the skills and imagination used. Look after a child/group of young children over a period of weeks playing alongside them and developing their play by talking and interacting with them.
- Design and produce a game/toy for a younger child to enjoy e.g. make a cuddly toy, create a board game, make a Noah's ark or use woodwork to make a small table.
- Using shop catalogues/brochures investigate the different kinds of toys and games available and categorise them by type e.g. creative, physical, imaginative, competitive, co-operative, educational etc. Create an exciting advert in any media advertising a specific toy, explaining why it is useful and what aged child would enjoy it etc.

**Set the scene:**

Think/talk through what the challenge is about. These questions might help you:

- What do you already know about the subject and what else do you need to find out?
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- What difficulties do you think you might face?

**Design:**

Study some of the information you have gathered and consider how you will complete the challenge.

**Who?** Do you need anyone to help/train/supervise/advise you?

**What?** What special equipment/space/advice do you need to complete the challenge?

**How much?** What costs might be involved and how will this funding be found?

**When?** Are there any dates or time scales you must set in order to ensure you meet your deadlines.

**Investigate the Christian perspective:**

Find out what the Bible/other Christians say about this topic.

- Jesus frequently used everyday objects to help Him teach Christian truths:
- Look at a child's toy box and select a toy which could help you to teach others a Christian truth.
- Ask a range of visitors to bring along their choice of toy and do the same thing.
- Make a toy/game which will help a child relate to a Bible passage e.g. a jigsaw, a story bag based on the story of the Good Samaritan or a set of nativity characters for small play.

**Respond:** Make it happen! Put your plan into action and complete the challenge

**Evaluate:**

Think through how successful you have been with this challenge. Consider:

- What do you think you have learnt through working on this challenge?
- Which skills, talents or abilities did you use in your involvement in this project?
- Did your project have an impact on other people and did it help them?
- How has this challenge given you a Christian perspective on issues that you face in everyday life?

**Children's App:**  
**Your challenge:**

**Watch with Mother:** (Children's TV)

We live in a society where some children are left to watch television alone. Research the effect of children's television on young viewers.

**Ideas:**

These ideas suggest ways in which you might accomplish the challenge, but you may do it any way you like. You could:

- Undertake a piece of research about children's viewing habits including information about which programmes or types of programme they enjoy, the amount of time spent watching TV, the times of day when they most frequently tune in and the suitability of their choice of programmes for their age. Collate your findings.
- Select a popular children's television programme or a series of programmes. Watch them over a period of weeks. Identify the positive and negative impacts that the programme(s) may have on children. Write an article about your findings and pass it to any interested parents you know.
- Produce a leaflet/dramatic sketch for children identifying the dangers of watching too much TV (or spending too much time on the computer) and highlighting healthy alternatives.
- Investigate how children's TV programmes have changed over the years. Look at the content and style of programmes available.
- Review five different children's programmes, identifying where and how they are useful in helping children to learn.

**Set the scene:**

Think/talk through what the challenge is about. These questions might help you:

- What do you already know about the subject and what else do you need to find out?
- Where might you find out more information?
- What useful skills/contacts do you/other members of your group possess to help with this challenge?

**Design:**

Study some of the information you have gathered and consider how you will complete the challenge.

**Who?** Do you need anyone to help/train/supervise/advise you?

**What?** What special equipment/space/advice do you need to complete the challenge?

**How much?** What costs might be involved and how will this funding be found?

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**Investigate the Christian perspective:**

Find out what the Bible/other Christians say about this topic.

- Identify any children's TV programmes which encourage moral or ethical lifestyles.
- As a group, arrange to view a video/DVD of a Biblical narrative or which highlights a Christian theme.
- Discuss its authenticity or the key message relayed through the interpretation.

**Respond:** Make it happen! Put your plan into action and complete the challenge

**Evaluate:**

Think through how successful you have been with this challenge. Consider:

- What do you think you have learnt through working on this challenge?
- Which skills, talents or abilities did you use in your involvement in this project?
- Did your project have an impact on other people and did it help them?
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## Children's App

**Your chosen challenge:**

**Ideas:**

Outline your idea:

**Set the scene:**

Jot down your initial thoughts/questions:

**Design:**

Consider who will be involved, when it will happen, what you will need and how much it will cost etc.

Who?

What?

How much?

When?

**Investigate the Christian perspective:**

Outline how you will find out what the Bible/other Christians say about this topic.

Will you have a specified time every week or one whole evening focused on this aspect of your challenge?

Will it be led by visitors/your leader/your chaplain/members of your group?

**Respond**

Now use the challenge plan on the next page to help you to make it happen!

Work out what will happen each week.

Identify who you will need to help you/who is inviting them/who is leading/who will be involved in each activity etc.

Ensure you will have the resources you will need.

Record the time you are involved each week to keep track of your progress.

**Evaluate**

Think through how successful you have been by considering the evaluation questions.

Record your story in my *i - chievement* journal

**Children's App -  
Channel plan:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b> What will you do this week?	<b>Who</b> Who will support you to facilitate this session?	<b>What</b> What equipment is needed?
<b>Week/step 1</b> Date: Time:			
<b>Week/Step 2</b> Date: Time:			
<b>Week/step 3</b> Date: Time:			
<b>Week/step 4</b> Date: Time:			
<b>Week/step 5</b> Date: Time:			
<b>Week/step 6</b> Date: Time:			
<b>Week/step 7</b> Date: Time:			
<b>Week/step 8</b> Date: Time:			
<b>Week/step 9</b> Date: Time:			
<b>Week/step 10</b> Date: Time:			

*Copy for additional weeks as required.*