



Children's Ministry Guidance

From 17th May 2021, England will continue to ease lockdown restrictions. The following document is a summary of the latest guidelines regarding children's work. All places of worship are still required to follow the government road map as we ease out of lockdown.

Within places of worship, Children's groups are directed to follow the 'Out of school setting' and 'Early year guidance' guidelines. You can find these these in more details on the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website.

From 17th May 2021

- **Support groups:** Can take place in gatherings of up to 30 (subject to capacity) in a COVID-19 secure community facility - This includes parent and toddler groups (The limit of 30 does not include children under 5 who are accompanying a parent or guardian.)
- **Indoor Children's groups. There are no limitations on groups sizes,** but please follow the following criteria:
 - Consistent appropriately sized groups is best practice
 - COVID Safe Guidelines in place (i.e. Track & Trace information gathered, social distancing,
 - Hygiene and risk assessments in place)
 - Social distancing must be in place. Therefore, whilst numbers are not restricted for groups meeting,
 - Sizes of groups will depend on the space available in your venue. You must make the assessment of your own venue as to how many you can permit safely.
 - Groups may NOT meet in private residential
 - Be aware of flow points (i.e. corridors to toilets)
- **Resources - Can be use with the following in mind:**
 - Books and games, can be used and shared within the bubble. These should be cleaned regularly, along with all frequently touched surfaces.
 - Resources that are shared between classes or bubbles, such as sports, arts, and science equipment should be cleaned frequently.
 - When sharing equipment between different bubbles, you should either: clean it before it is moved between bubbles or allow them to be left unused for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics)

- **First Aid** - Treating any casualty properly should be the first concern. If you give first aid provision in close proximity, ensure you follow sanitation measures immediately afterwards, including washing hands.
- **Singing** - **Children can now sing with the following measures in place:**
 - children sit down where possible to help maintain social distancing
 - back-to-back or side-to-side positioning (rather than face-to-face) is used whenever possible, to ensure for example, air from instruments does not blow on to another player
 - use microphones where possible or encourage children to sing quietly - if possible, do not share microphones; if they are shared, follow the [guidance on handling equipment and instruments](#)
 - if indoors, use a room with as much space as possible, for example, larger rooms; rooms with high ceilings are expected to enable dilution of aerosol transmission
 - limit the number of children to maintain social distancing and increase space ventilation.

With the above in mind, we also suggest the following:

- Continue to pre-register children to attend your sessions for the purpose of track and trace. Encourage parents and families to pre-book rather than just turning up.
- Based on the capacity of your rooms, work out how many children you can book in considering safe ratios and social distancing.
- Work out how many team members you will need for each session to maintain a safe child:adult ratio.
- We encourage you to start with smaller numbers of 15 then work your way up when there is an increased demand and if you have the space/team available
- Children and adults must remain socially distanced and adequate PPE is advised for adults
- Sanitisers and hand washing facilities should be readily accessible throughout all sessions. Encourage children and team members to wash hands upon arrival and when leaving.
- If you hold multiple services, ensure all touch points, toilets and resources are cleaned/sanitised between services
- Ensure all procedures are in line with your churches risk assessment

If you require any further clarification, help or support then please do not hesitate to get in touch. Limitless kids is here to support you in every way we can. You have done an incredible job of navigating these guidelines over the last 14 months, constantly adapting to the ever changing demands the pandemic has placed upon Children's ministry. Thank you for everything you do, to love, serve and invest in the children where you are. Remember, you're doing a great job!