

# "TOGETHER CHURCH": DESIGNING CONGREGATIONAL SPACES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

## BE TOGETHER

Church designed with young children in mind will offer a **shared experience** that includes **multiple comfortable spaces** where kids and caregivers can participate **in relationship** with each other and with the community.

Making sure kid-friendly spaces are **close to both caregivers and leaders** so that children can engage in worship or programming **with support** can strengthen families' ability to feel connected to each other and to what's happening around them.

## DO TOGETHER

Church designed with young children in mind will **encourage participation** by including elements that are **active** and **predictable**. Rituals that are **repeated over time** become **familiar moments** that kids look forward to and more easily internalize.

Designing worship or programming to include **points of repetition** like songs or simple actions helps ensure that those elements **can be brought home** and used as part of a family's day-to-day life.

## GROW TOGETHER

Church designed with young children in mind will allow families to **be together** and **do together** in **flexible ways** that **support their spiritual growth** and their place in the community.

The more kids and caregivers can **have church in common**, the more likely they are to have **a shared identity** that includes being members of their faith community.