

PUBLIC KIDS: PARENT RESOURCE

Preparing for Quiet Environments

Scripture is clear that parents are the primary disciple-makers of their children. Training them in the truth of God's word is both spiritual and practical.

This article provides examples of how parents can play an instrumental role in training their children to thrive in quiet or non-child centered environments.

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE HULETS

There was a time when the idea of training our kids to behave in non-child centered environments seemed impossible. When they were very young, even their classes at church were incredibly difficult. We would talk on the way to church, "which one of us is going to stay in their class today?" Consistently, over time, we've made really great strides. We have not arrived, I suppose we never will fully, but we've done a few things that have really helped our kids with thriving in situations you wouldn't normally consider for kids.

HELPFUL TIPS

- Start early with clear, age-appropriate expectations.
- Have lots of conversations about how to act in situations, including examples and non-examples.
 - Example: Today, we are going to church and you are going to sit with mom and dad in the gathering. What should you do during songs? How should you sit during the talk? What are some things you can do if you are done listening to the talk?
- Practice in various situations, again starting small and with age-appropriate expectations and frequent reminders of those expectations throughout each situation.
 - Example: Sitting correctly at a restaurant.
- Offer praise and rewards. Find the good and praise it to make obedience fun and exciting! However, consistency in discipline and holding kids to expectations is extremely important.

For questions or more information,
email
publickids@publicchurch.com