

Nuggets of advice:

1) Start Small:

It may take a while before your child is able to sit through a service. On your first try, 5 minutes may be a victory for you and your child. If your child can't sit through the whole service, come back into the Worship Training Room. After some time in the WTR, you may be able to rejoin the end of the service. If possible, each week try adding on another minute or two onto the previous week.

2) Think long term:

In the beginning, you may have to help hold your child's attention by having them sit on your lap and engaging them in the items in the Special Bag. After they have proven they can sit quietly in the service, there will come a time when you will want to encourage them to interact with the items in their Special Bag on their own so you can pay more attention to the service and less attention to your child.

3) This is a joint effort

If both parents attend church, both parents need to be involved in this process to communicate to the child that worshipping God is important to Mommy and Daddy.

4) Believe it or not, members of the church are encouraged when you bring your child into the service!!

We have had many "senior" members of our church say that they are very happy when parents care to bring their children into the service.

They've experienced the difficulties of training a child to sit through a service and they've seen the reward at the end of the process. They know what you are going through and it encourages them that a younger generation is taking part in the church.

We often feel like everyone stares at us when our children make noise in a service, but the reality is not many people notice or care. Take hope in the fact that you are introducing your child to worship, this pleases God.

Parents who have gone through this before will tell you to not entertain thoughts of what other people in the service may or may not be thinking about you and your child. Two minutes after your child makes a small amount of noise, no one will remember.