



Building for Mission

A church's building is a tool to fulfil God's mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

A church needs a building project when its mission is hindered by its present facilities.

The clearer a church understands its mission and the clearer it is able to envision what God is calling it to be and do, the easier it will be to determine what is needed in the new/renovated building

Clarify and confirm your Mission

- Your church's purpose (inspired by scripture)
- A description of who your church aims to serve (those sitting in its pews and others)
- Your current and desired ministries
- Your goals to grow the mission and church

Setting Your Priorities and Goals

As your church determines its priorities and sets its goals, it should consider these questions:

1. Who is in our church's community?
 - Are they similar to or different from our present church attenders?
 - What are their unique needs? How is our community changing?
2. What is God doing in our church and community?
 - Who does God seem to be bringing to our church?
 - What kind of people are visiting our worship services and small groups?
 - Who is participating in our weekday activities (e.g. play groups, Mainly Music, fitness groups etc)?
 - What unique gifts do our leaders/congregation have to offer the church and community?
 - What ministries in the church are flourishing and bearing fruit?
 - What does God seem to be doing in other churches?
 - What is God doing ecumenically in our community?
3. In light of the answers to the above questions, what priorities and goals should we set in order to help facilitate what God seems to be already doing?
4. Given our church's history, personality and values, do these priorities and goals fit us?
 - Are they likely to be embraced by our congregation?
 - Are we willing to make the necessary changes for these to happen?

Assess your current facilities

How does our church's current facilities facilitate and hinder our mission and goals for ministering to children and families? (so which bits will we keep and which bits will we bin?)

How will our new church facilitate our mission to children and families?



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY FACILITIES WISH LIST

Main children's ministry venue

To be used for:

This could include many other events, ministries and programmes other than children's ministry eg exercise classes, art classes, educational classes etc

Space	<p>Large enough to be used for large events/ministries eg mainly music, holiday programmes, family events, games.</p> <p>Ability to be broken into smaller more intimate spaces for children's Sunday programme – could be through movable screens on wheels, or bi-fold doors</p> <p>Access to fenced and safe outdoor deck, garden, sandpit and playground including a suitable place for ride-on bikes for toddlers.</p> <p>Easy access to kitchen for cooking, serving morning teas, meals, heating bottles etc</p> <p>Easy access to sinks for cleaning art materials.</p> <p>Easy access to bathroom and changing tables.</p>
Storage	<p>Big walk in cupboards for storing resources, small chairs, cushions, carpet mats, easels, instruments (anything we use).</p> <p>Big labelled plastic boxes for storing resources particular to one group eg mainly music.</p> <p>Shelves for shared resources.</p>
Furniture and fixtures	<p>Some carpeted area and some uncarpeted area for morning tea, arts and crafts etc</p> <p>Little tables and chairs that can be stored.</p> <p>Comfortable couches for mums with babies and breast feeding.</p> <p>Safe, cost effective, instant heating.</p> <p>Large notice boards for displaying children's art, relevant notices</p> <p>Place to hang coats and leave umbrellas in winter</p>



Technology	Data projection and monitor or screen Sound system with microphone Wireless internet.
Access	Plenty car parking Pram and wheelchair access.
Safety	Cleaning materials inaccessible. Electrical plugs out of range or filled with safety plugs. Heaters inaccessible. Playground/play area fenced and locked gate.

Creche venue

Location	Off existing church. Accessed by double doors that stay open so toddlers can roam between the two and parents who move into crèche space still feel part of the church service and can move back into the church when they feel ready ie baby has calmed down, breast feeding is complete. Parent could also sit in church and see into crèche area keeping an eye on playing child (supervised by someone) but still be in church.
Technology	Sound from worship service so even when not fully attentive or able to see leaders in church parents can follow gist of it.
Fixtures, furniture and resources	Small tables and chairs for toddlers to draw, play with dough etc. Wipeable mat to cover floor under table or no carpet area so art, drinking and eating acceptable. Portable changing table (note to parents to take soiled nappies home) Playpen for smaller babies who want to sit quietly and safely to play with soft toys. Some carpet for babies to crawl and sit on. Couches for parents to sit comfortably to read stories, breast feed etc. Book shelf with age appropriate books.



	<p>Cupboard to store crèche resources and toys.</p> <p>Notice board for displaying relevant notices etc</p>
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In church

Space	Space at front of church for children’s small tables and chairs or mat with cushions so children can be upfront and engaged.
Fixtures and resources	<p>Book case of books and children’s bibles at back or side of church for children to access when they want them.</p> <p>Cupboard to store welcome packs, treasure box (welcome table stuff) and activity packs for when there is no children’s programme or children want to stay in church. Also keep crayons and felt pens here.</p> <p>Small tables and chairs or mat marking space for children with colourful cushions.</p>

This is a working document created in response to a request from one of our Kids Friendly churches embarking on a building project. It includes ideas from our Kids Friendly office brainstorm and some of our children’s leaders around the country.

Please add to it by letting us know what we have left out and what your wish list would look like if you were given a clean slate (and of course an unlimited budget!)

CONTACT:

To contact a Kids Friendly Coach or Advisor check our website:

<http://www.kidsfriendly.org.nz/about/contact-us/>

