



# Ideas for Great Entries for the "Love Reaches Out – Make A Difference" Art & Writing Competition

## 1. Plan Well in Advance!

If you want the children in your church or community to create entries in this year's **Love Reaches Out** competition, don't just leave it to chance! Be intentional about giving your children time and space to participate. Decide how and when you are going to introduce the competition. Some ideas include:

- Holiday or After-School Programmes
- Sunday School
- Holiday Sessions for Sunday School
- Local School Art/Writing lesson
- Kindergarten Activity or Playgroup Activity

Create an inspiring space where children are encouraged to feel comfortable and inspired to use their imaginations.

Show them some past entries ([2018 Gallery](#) and [2017 Gallery](#)) and ways the art has been used by the church, for example in the [Kids Friendly Reflections for Lent](#) and [GA18 Cards](#).

## 2. Brainstorm Ideas!

This year the focus of our “**Love Reaches Out**” theme is “**Make A Difference: I Can, You Can, We Can**”. This can be interpreted in many ways. Your children may need a little help in discovering all the interpretations available to them. You may want to start out by having a brainstorming session about what it means to “*Make a Difference*”. There are a few different directions to go:

1. Environmental - How can I, You, We Make A Difference in our physical world?
  - An art creation out of recycled products?
  - A poster encouraging people to take action to make the physical world a better place?
  - Do some background research at: <https://www.arocha.org.nz>
2. Making a Difference for the people of the World (geographical – places far and near)
  - A poem or story to highlight how people respond to crises around the world?
  - Use **maps** to find different areas of the world. God cares about everyone no matter where they live or how different their situation is to ours.
  - Access the **World Vision** or **Tear Fund** websites to find out if there are any particular crises that need prayer.
  - **Scripture**: The book of Acts is full of stories of Paul and the other apostles bringing the Gospel to the world of their time.
3. Making a Difference for people in OUR world e.g., family, neighbours, etc. Think about neighbours, classmates, church community, teachers, etc ... Who are they and HOW can we care for them? (Remember birthdays, encourage people who are lonely, make meals for those who are sick, etc)



Scripture: The Good Samaritan Luke 10: 25 - 37

[Neighbours-Day-Childrens-Ministry-Resources 2018](#)

### 3. Decide and Set Up for Success!

As you and the children work out the way in which you want to express your message, help them to decide whether or not they want to write or create an artistic expression –or perhaps a mixture of both.

**WRITTEN ENTRIES** If they want to write, they may use poetry, narrative, fiction or essay. Of course, age and development will make a difference, but try not to assume that “littlies” cannot write. Encourage creative spelling in the initial phase of writing. Allow them to use picture words or narrate their story so you can put it into words (“book spelling”) for them. (PLEASE just be sure you are true to THEIR ideas.) Here are some tips for making the environment *friendly* to writing:

- Offer lined and unlined paper.
- Have clipboards available as well as tables so children may find a spot for inspiration and park there.
- Offer many different coloured pens and pencils. Paper can also be multi-coloured.
- Some children like the feeling of writing on a notepad or a journal.
- Give them space and time to create something unique to them.

**ART ENTRIES** For art you’ll need to decide if you’re doing a group project or individual projects. Think about what they might need as well as what is attainable for the amount of adult supervision you have. Lots of painting might not be a great idea if you are short-staffed. (Children who are beyond the age requirements may like to assist you!) That said, be sure that good materials (pastels, pens, crayons, paints, inks, good paper, card to “frame” creations) are in abundance (as much as possible) and that children have free access to them. With individual projects, children may need help brainstorming, but try to avoid being too prescriptive.

### 4. Presentation is Key!

As the judges look at the artwork presented, their eyes are naturally drawn toward art that is presented in a polished and lovely way. Children’s originality should be supported by a backdrop of some sort if it’s published on paper. Black card or construction paper that is slightly larger than your original paper works very nicely. Use the highest quality materials available to you. If your budget won’t allow for new items, ask your church or local community to donate materials. This boosts the children’s sense of importance for the project and it allows for a beautiful finished product. And most importantly HAVE FUN!