



**THERE IS NO OTHER ORGANIZATION IN YOUR COMMUNITY THAT IS BETTER POISED TO SHAPE THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF KIDS THAN YOUR CHURCH.**



Visit: [Awana.org](http://Awana.org)

## Children's Ministry in a COVID-19 World

**MATT MARKINS**

*What will children's ministry look like this fall?*

**C**hildren's ministry leaders and pastors are strategizing and praying about how to most effectively minister to kids and families in a COVID-19 world. *So what are you thinking? What's your church going to do this fall?*

### **It Only Takes a Moment**

As a child I grew up in a divorced home with an emotionally abusive father. Our local church was my lifeline. The women and men who led children's church, small groups and special events were not only like extended family—they were my heroes! I would look forward to engaging with them with great anticipation.

I'll never forget opening up my first ever handwritten card from Mrs. Nancy. At home my father was telling me that I was a bother, a problem...the reason he had to pay child support and was simply the collateral damage of divorce. But Mrs. Nancy gave me new words to envision my identity and God's purpose for my life. She helped me see that God had given me the gifts of encouragement, mercy and leadership. Who knew? She did, and God used her to change the trajectory of my life.

### **Your Influence is Powerful**

The Harvard Center on the Developing Child released a study that stated, "Every child who winds up doing well has at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive adult."<sup>1</sup> There is no other organization in your community that is better poised to shape the future direction of kids than your church. Why?

Relationships. The most powerful currency your church possesses to make an impact on the kids, is loving, caring adults who invest in kids. Through these disciple-making relationships children hear the gospel, understand Scripture, witness the love of Jesus and experience the power of belonging in a faith community. This is the influence and power of a relational disciple-maker, and in case no one has told you lately, you are amazing!

### **Children's Ministry *MUST* Go On**

Now more than ever, the kids in your community need children's ministry. They need you to find creative ways to engage them. Let's not allow COVID-19 to keep us from helping young disciples navigate an increasingly aggressive, secular culture. If we back down, how many catalytic moments will be lost? What relational connection may fade for kids who need the church?

Your ability to find creative ways to connect with kids is crucial. Is your church going to meet in person? Online? Or some other creative combination? Regardless of your approach, let's find new ways—creative ways—to make relational connections with kids no matter the environment so that they may see the love of Jesus in your eyes and feel a sense of heavenly belonging...through a screen, from a distance, on one knee or from six feet away.

### **This. Is. Your. Moment.**

As you search for curriculum to help you do children's ministry differently, consider *brite Curriculum*. Entirely digital (mobile), biblically sound, easy to implement to help you make resilient disciples who love Jesus for the rest of their lives. ●

1. <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/supportive-relationships-and-active-skill-building-strengthen-the-foundations-of-resilience/>

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