

Thank you for assisting with KIDS CONNECTION at RALPH CONNOR revised March 2024

The goal of Kids Connection is to offer hospitality to children ages 4 to 14 through story-telling based on scripture. Children 3 and under will, ideally, be offered “Toddler care” which is a separate thing unto itself; experience has taught us that attempting to deal with 2 years olds and 10 year olds in the same class is not a recipe for success!

In accordance with the United Church Duty of Care, Kids Connection volunteers are to be pre-screened and approved by RCMUC Council.

There are three main tasks: preparing the lesson; checking in with the greeters and parents; leading the lesson and returning to worship in time for the anthem.

LESSON PREP

There is no set curriculum, though it is nice if the lesson aligns somewhat with the scripture(s) being read in the Sunday Service. The weekly scripture is noted in the Friday e-Newsletter. Lessons are approximately 20 minutes long, based on the leader's choice and may be supported by internet research and/or one of the following resources which are found on the Kids' Connection shelf in Canmore's upstairs storage room:

1. *Rhyming Bible* – this wonderful Bible is nicely supported by the activities found in *God's Big Story*.
2. Story Cards for *God's Big Story*. Each story card has a handout which can be photocopied for the children to take home.
3. Reproducible lessons and activities in *All in One Bible Fun*.
4. *Big Book of Bible Stories and Art Activities*.
5. *Godly Play* lessons.
6. Occasional resources developed by the United Church of Canada
7. Your own idea
8. Craft supplies in the Children's Church cupboard

CHECK-IN

Prior to the service it is helpful to check in with the greeters so that they know you are leading Kids' Connection this week. It is also helpful, especially if you do not know the family, to introduce yourself to families with children to discern if the child will be interested in coming to Kids Connection. In both Canmore and Banff there should be activity packets in the narthex, in case there is nobody to lead Kids Connection or the child(ren) would rather stay with their parent(s).

LEADING THE LESSON

Children leave the service toward the end of the first hymn, and are returned to their parent(s) in time for the anthem (and communion, if it's a communion Sunday). In Canmore, lessons are typically offered in Gordon Hall, at the small table; in Banff, there is a small table by the hymn board, or the kitchenette may be used.