

Play Café

Adapted from program at New-Wes-Valley Corps



Goal: To unite moms whose kids are of similar ages (from infant to pre-school) so new friendships can be formed. An event or program such as these provides a safe place for parents and children to come and have fun.

Program: Could be a one time event or you may consider holding this on a weekly or monthly basis.

Set-up: This is meant to be an informal, unstructured playtime for children and an opportunity for moms to have conversation. Some moms might choose to sit and play on the floor with their children, others might choose to sit at a table with the other moms. This will create a relaxed setting for all involved.

Play Area: If available, especially if not carpeted, use foam puzzle pieces on the floor for a comfortable play area. Have various toys, legos, puzzles, books set up in an area where the children can play. Be sure toys are age appropriate.

Café Area: Set up tables and chairs. Cover tables with brown paper and have a pack of crayons on each table so kids can mark and color if they decide not to play. Have coffee, tea and muffins readily available. You could charge a small fee for muffins if it becomes a regular event. You could also have snacks and juice available for the children. Have soft Christian praise music playing in the background.

Also have pamphlets/ brochures available to take with church programs listed and worship times.

Volunteers: Have 2 or 3 volunteers to help supervise the children while playing. This is not babysitting, simply a helping hand.

Story-time: You could conclude everyone's time together by reading a Christian story book to the children.