

RESOURCING THE LOCAL CHURCH



FOR YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



# Under 5's Resources for Children's Ministry

Compiled by Janette McCormick

Children's Ministry Co-ordinator, IMYC



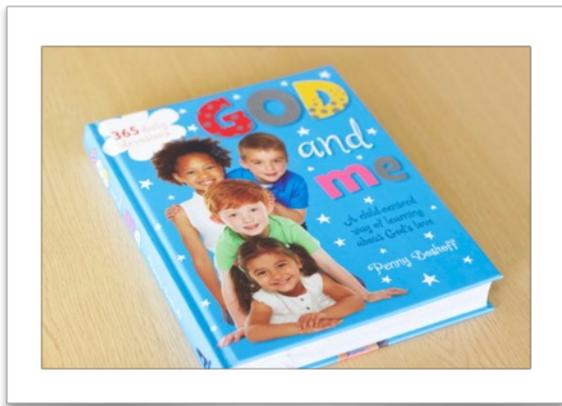


## Suggested Resources for Children's Ministry

Staring at shelves full of children's ministry resources, contemplating the most suitable resources can be rather overwhelming. There are so many resources but which do you choose? Here are a few suggested resources I hope that you may find useful to meet your particular need.

### Resources for working with the under 5's

I love the innocence of children especially the little ones under 5. So impressionable, inquisitive and full of awe and wonder! Maybe as you serve in this area of church work do you feel at times that you are just providing a baby minding service? If you don't that is wonderful, but if you do, working with the under 5's can, and should, be much more. Little ones enjoy attention, human contact, short activity based stimulation and at this age learn much through their play. To enable children to learn about God in a way suitable to their age and ability there are various books on the shelves or online. A beautiful Bible centred devotional book entitled '**God and Me**' helps young children to connect with God through familiar everyday experiences. Each day has a bible story or passage linked to the topic for the day and a prayer or prayer idea to help the child to develop their relationship with God.





Another lovely series for pre-school children is the **Tiddlywinks** series. Again there are many books in this series. For instance, **The Big Green Book** has 25 multi-purpose outlines each one providing ideas for play, prayer, craft, stories and rhymes from which you can pick and choose to meet the particular needs of your group. Again there are pointers on how to set up and run a pre-school group. Trish Heywood, Worldwide President of the Mothers Union comments *'It is very important that we take our children seriously and really celebrate their part in today's Church, in God's Family. Tiddlywinks does just that – and it is fun.'* Tiddlywinks is produced by Scripture Union so why not go online to see more of the Tiddlywinks series.

If you are working with under 5's in a Church-based context you might be interested in reading 'Pretty much everything you need to know about Working with under 5's.' by Judith Wigley. Judith has over 25 year's experience of working with under 5's. This book not only gives you an insight into the world of a pre-school child to help you understand how they grow and learn, but is also jammed packed with practical advice on planning and running a programme, using the Bible, worshipping and praying, and playing, to nurture the faith of this age group.

Judith writes *'The more exposure a young child has to God and the signs of God, the more he or she will thrive spiritually. But without this or when exposed to negative experiences they fail to develop spiritually. Just as appropriate stimulus is crucial to the healthy development of a young child's body and mind, it is equally vital for our spirit too. Our work in these early years stimulating a child's experience of God is vital and tremendously exciting!'*

Want to be challenged? Inspired? Or be encouraged in this valuable work you are doing why not dive into this treasure trove that highlights working with the churches smallest most vulnerable people, the under 5's!

Learning should be fun and these books allow for this. I have dipped in and out of the above on occasions for various activities so I can highly recommend them.



### **So, who is God?**

This is a resource produced by Scripture Union and written by Robert Willoughby with bright eye catching illustrations. It answers real questions about God!

For example, 'Did God make the World?', 'How do you know you can trust God?', 'What is God's real name?' and many more. Each answer is highlighted through Bible characters in both the old and new testament, and real life stories such as people like Corrie Ten Boom. Keeping to the theme each question has a key verse, a fascinating fact, wonder word and making connections. This is a lovely book which may help you to answer the God questions from young inquisitive and searching minds.

### **Bob Hartman**

Bob Hartman brings scripture to life, he is a master storyteller who appeals to both adults and children. If you have been fortunate enough to have been present at one of his workshops I'm sure you will agree that he is a master of his skill, fun and engaging. He has written a number of books, one of which is '**Telling the Bible, Over 100 Stories to read out loud**'. His books are a super resource which can be used during family/corporate worship or in smaller groups.