



# **Disproportionately Invest**

in the Holistic Development of

# **Children & Youth**



## **PRACTICAL POSSIBILITIES**

There is not just one way to address this area; at the same time, it can be difficult to discover the possibilities. This resource highlights considerations and sparks ideas. Your church is free to contact our CBOQ Next Gen team to help discern how God is directing you to address this area.

## **STARTER QUESTIONS**

1. What are the very practical felt needs of our youth and kids? What tangible and practical resources are we providing for them so they know we care about them as a whole person?

If you haven't discussed this with your kids and youth, ask. It can be done informally; be upfront about why you're asking i.e. to see how the church can help care for them. Allow multiple and ongoing conversations because needs do change. Also check with other local agencies like schools to see what felt needs they are encountering and how they are addressing it (so you supplement a different need or give additional support).

2. How are parents and/or grandparents in our congregation empowered to be primary influencers in the faith formation of their kids/grandkids?

Find out from parents/grandparents what ways they are already helping their kids/grandkids in faith formation and what they believe they need. Encourage them to discuss those issues together. Share from the pulpit and through other channels practical ways to continue well.

3. What percentage do kids/youth encompass within our regular attendees? (Include all programs, not just Sunday mornings.) As you review this, you can separate it into different categories of involvement, whether it's through direct ministries (e.g. Sunday school), ministries who use your facilities (e.g. Awana) or other community groups who use the church building (e.g. Girl Guides). This will give you an idea of the scope of potential influence your church might have.
4. Given that 94% of people who choose to follow Jesus, do so before they turn 18, how are we disproportionately investing both in terms of time, resources and money into the faith formation of kids and youth? What percentage of our church's budget is directly allocated towards kids and youth faith development? (This can include staff, program, specific resources, etc.)

Different ways to evaluate this include:

- Your church budget (separating non-negotiable expenses e.g. utilities) vs what is within your control (e.g. salaries, program, etc.).
  - The number of volunteers in various ministries (and that proportion compared to your membership/overall volunteer pool)
  - The number of volunteer/staff hours spent on those ministries and programs
5. It is said that this next generation needs to know they BELONG before they will BELIEVE – what steps are we taking as a church so that kids/youth know they genuinely belong within the community of our church? If we asked each kid/youth if they feel they belong, what would their response be?

When evaluating this, asking outright may not provide you with accurate feedback. One way to consider how to invest well with kids/youth is through CBOQ Next Gen’s “sharing life” template ([cboqyouth.ca/sharinglife](http://cboqyouth.ca/sharinglife)).

### I'D LIKE TO ACCOMLISH WITHIN:

One Month	Answer these starter questions with a working group.
Three Month	Discuss with parents/grandparents what are helpful next steps in their responsibility as faith influencers of their kids/grandkids.
Six Month	Work with the treasurer and your church board (elders, deacons, etc.) on what are some achievable ways to disproportionately invest in the next generation.
One Year	Evaluate revised levels of investment and adjust as needed.

Access all the resources for this area at [cboqyouth.ca/area2cc](http://cboqyouth.ca/area2cc).

