



Kids Talk Role Description

1. DPC Vision Statement

Darebin Presbyterian Church (DPC) exists *"to see 10% of the City of Darebin find deep satisfaction in knowing and serving Christ."*

Your ministry of doing the kids talk helps us to realise this vision as you create an opportunity for children to know Christ and his love for people more deeply, and to be assured of their value in the wider church family as the body of Christ learns and shares together.

2. Key Outcomes

1. To demonstrate that children are an active part of the church community, valued and loved by their creator God and valued and loved the members of DPC.
2. To provide an opportunity for the children of the congregation to participate in corporate worship, demonstrating unity in Christ.
3. To provide an opportunity where the adults of the congregation are aware of and involved in the learning, teaching and sharing of the children.
4. To present concrete ways that adults and children can talk together about their faith.
5. To present a teaching or activity (e.g. song, prayer) that is age-appropriate for children from preschool to grade 6.
6. Present a Biblical passage, verse, theme, principal or activity in an engaging way
7. Present the kids talk with un-distracting excellence, ensuring you and any others you plan to involve are prepared in advance.

3. Specifics of Role

Possible formats for a kids talk (see table below for more information and suggestions about the formats)

- Story/illustration/presentation of the Bible passage or sermon topic to be looked at by the adults
- Kids song (a quick introduction of the song's content and direct interaction with the kids and adults is great)
- Prayer (e.g. could teach a framework for a prayer, with suggestions/prayers to be from the children)
- Interview with a child from the congregation (e.g. telling friends about Jesus) ***Must consult with parents and ensure questions are provided ahead of time***
- Mission spot about God's work in the wider world
- Present what children have been learning in kids time
- Memory verse

The Process

- a. Pray
- b. Consult service leader/year plan as to sermon passage and topic, and the content of rest of service (e.g. is there extended prayer, lots of songs, a mission spot etc.)
- c. Choose format of kids talk i.e. will it be a song, a prayer, an interview, story, memory verse
- d. Pray and plan
- e. Collect and make any resources, costumes, ppt presentations, props or visuals
- f. Communicate with those you plan to involve prior to Sunday (including actors, service leader, pa/av for ppt etc). **If you plan to do a kids song let the music leader know by Wednesday night**
- g. Practice and pray
- h. Welcome the kids, introduce yourself, speak slowly and trust our good God
- i. ****Optional**** Invite the children and the adults to pray together with you to close the kids time
- j. Hand back over to the service leader

Practical Tips

Write out what you plan to say

Use visuals – be cautious of using only talking without the use of acting, props or pictures (digital or hard copy). Listening to someone talk and sitting still can be difficult, especially for younger children when no other element is involved.

Physically involve the children where possible e.g. ask them questions, give them jobs, actions, things to hold

Prepare your own answers to any questions you plan to ask children – just in case!

Be clear about what is going to happen. e.g. "I need you all to stand up, we're going to sing a song together!" "Make sure you are sitting very still, look at these puppets, I'm going to tell you a story"

Speak slowly and calmly

Learn the names of as many of the children at DPC as you can!!

4. Support and Accountability

If you have any questions or concerns at any time you can contact Anna Zeunert (anna.clarke1@outlook.com, 0425 859 056)

Type of Kids Spot	Benefit For Kids	Benefit For Adults	What does it say about God	What does it say about our Church Family	Risks and How to counter those risks
<p>Bible Teaching from Sermon</p> <p>Children's talk taken from the Bible passage of the sermon, or from the preacher's sermon outline.</p>	Learn about the Bible	Complements the sermon's teaching	God's Word is important/central	There is a shared responsibility for teaching kids. Helps parents and children talk about the same passage and facilitate conversations	<p>Inconsistency between the ideas in the kids talk and those in the sermon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Consult Aaron's email at the start of the week and contact him if you have any questions <p>Difficult to pitch to the wide age range of kids, some kids will be disengaged</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Pick one age group at a time, can be more difficult to try to cater to everyone and as a result miss the mark – you don't have to target every age group every time ➔ OR pick a method of delivery focused on one age group (e.g. simple story for preschool kids) but have the setting/props/analogy involve a topic of interest to older kids as well (e.g. footy) ➔ Picture specific kids who will be listening to the kids talk as you prepare ➔ Ask the children questions during the talk then you can hear perspectives from different age groups <p>Kids talk could steal the sermon's thunder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ We didn't think this was a huge problem as it can be really helpful to hear the same message explained in a simpler way ➔ BUT to increase engagement give both the adults and the children a question/talking point based on what they have learnt today to share with each other after the service <p>Could be a moralistic talk and perceived as just a list of things to do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Try to connect that the action is a response to God's love (this is tricky with the time limit and also tricky to do simply) ➔ Have a consistent picture/image of God's love for us that can be quickly refer to – have this as a resource for all kids spot team to use any time. ➔ Make it clear that the topic/idea story is from the Bible directly, with a Bible reference if you can. Highlighting that it's part of God's big story of love not just a "to do list". <p>Concepts can be very complex or hard for children to relate to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Consider whether this is an appropriate passage to do a Bible teaching kids spot or if it could be a week to do a different format of kids spot. (Sometimes more complex ideas are better addressed in a full DP Kids program/at home etc) ➔ Create a story that addresses the idea. Narrative/ story telling can be a very helpful way for children to comprehend a big idea.

<p>Prayer</p> <p>Could teach a prayer structure e.g. TSP prayer, or pray for a particular event together (e.g. kids club, carols)</p>	<p>Teaches children to pray Opportunity to pray together with adults</p>	<p>Teaches adults to pray Emphasizes the importance of prayer</p>	<p>We can talk to God. He listens</p>	<p>Prayer is important</p>	<p>Adults may not engage with the prayer if too simple/young</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Make a comment to the parents that this prayer could be used at home ➔ Ask the children to make suggestions about what to pray for, have a roving mic to ask both children and adults ➔ Be aware that people pray in different ways ➔ Allow the kids to encourage the adults by hearing directly from the kids.
<p>Song</p> <p>Song for kids, often with actions and clear lyrics</p>	<p>Kids know the songs better than other church songs Kids songs are more age appropriate Kids songs can be engaging and memorable for kids.</p>	<p>Adults often enjoy the song They get to do something with the kids</p>	<p>Demonstrates a way of worshipping and responding to God</p>	<p>Everyone can do it together <i>We don't care about doing/being cool</i></p>	<p>The adults often appear engaged but it's the children who can give you nothing (blank faces no actions etc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Don't worry too much, some children are overwhelmed in the moment but then will sing the song at home. It is developmentally appropriate for some children not to actively participate, but they may still be enjoying it. ➔ Do the same songs in DP Kids and Creche to increase knowledge of the songs. ➔ Focus on the children who are engaged and visibly enjoying it. It is wonderful for them to be personally encouraged by your enthusiasm
<p>Share what's been happening in DPKids/Creche/ELOS</p> <p>Kids or leaders tell what they have been learning or doing in their kids program time.</p>	<p>Cement what the children have been learning in DP Kids/creche etc Gives the children a feeling of importance and value</p>	<p>Clarification of what is being taught in kids programs Shows that the time the children spend in DP Kids is worthwhile. Opportunity to strengthen relationships with the children in the congregation</p>	<p>Children develop a relationship with God, and learn so much about him. God is at work in the lives of the children.</p>	<p>Kids are important We want to develop and integrate them into the church. All people of all ages can learn about God age appropriately – we want to cater to all ages.</p>	<p>It was discussed that the best way to do this is through the kids themselves sharing what they have learnt/taken away from the sessions rather than from an adult.</p> <p>Silence – the kids don't answer your questions or freeze up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ prepare the children in advance ➔ have a number of children to ask ➔ have some children bring a craft or prop to show (so that even if they forget what to say they can still show it to the church) ➔ it may be necessary to practice with the kids before hand ➔ pre recording the kids (e.g. straight after a DP Kids session) and showing the video in the Kids Spot – image release permission form would need to be signed by parents <p>We discussed that there didn't seem to be any other risks but just that it could become repetitive/too much if done too often or if all groups were addressed in one go, so it would be something to space out and to be realistic about how many age groups you can do in one kids spot.</p>

<p>Interview with child/ren or kids leader Could be about a recent mission trip, sharing their faith at school, challenge they have faced with God.</p>	<p>Positive to hear from a peer or a leader who is known personally – more personal to the kids</p>	<p>Adults get to know a specific child or leader by name Can be a conversation starter and build relationship between adults and kids</p>	<p>God is at work in the lives of kids</p>	<p>We're interested in each other's lives We can be mutually encouraged across the age barriers</p>	<p>Risks are as above in the "share what's been happening in ..." section</p>
<p>Mission or Mercy Spot Hearing about mission work, act of mercy, or mission or mercy organisations that are relevant/engaging for kids.</p>	<p>Children are engaged in the other aspects of gospel change Encourages "other person focus"</p>	<p>Same as the children but can also be convicting and challenging for the adults to hear children more passionate/generous and engaged in acts of mercy and mission than themselves</p>	<p>Shows that God's heart and priority is for the sick/lost/marginalized they are not an after thought</p>	<p>As a church we prioritize mission and mercy We do it together as a church family not just the mercy team</p>	<p>Best if related to children's own experience e.g an organization from the DP Kids Mercy session, or an initiative that the kids are doing themselves such as the 40hour Famine</p>
<p>Memory Verse Bible verse/s taught in an engaging way – often with chances for repetition and people to check if they can remember it</p>	<p>Ongoing reminder of the Word of God. Gives the kids a challenge/task to take home.</p>	<p>Ongoing reminder of the Word of God. Gives an opportunity to connect/share with the children</p>	<p>God uses His word to encourage his people. His word is powerful God wants his people to remember his words "write them on our hearts" "talk about him throughout our days"</p>	<p>God's word is important. Memorising God's word is a good thing to do. We can encourage each other and learn and remember together.</p>	<p>Memory verse is only done on a single week and is not followed up – making the remembering bit quite hard and can be discouraging for children who went away and memorized it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ communicate with other Kids Spot leaders if you see one done and are rostered on in the next few weeks ➔ Anna will suggest a verse and weeks when there is a specific focus or at times when it would be particularly appropriate (later this year in the Colossians series we will be doing this on Col 2:6-7) ➔ communicate with the Anna/DP Kids/Creche leaders to see if it can be followed up in crèche ➔ do a memory verse that has been previously learnt in DP Kids/Creche <p>Language can be too complex, verse can be given out of context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ carefully consider which Bible translation to use. NIV or the International Children's Bible (ICB) are often good choices. ➔ explain (or ask the children to help explain) complex words.

<p>Gospel presentation</p> <p>Simple talk/analogy/visual which shares the crux of Christianity along the lines of a “two ways to live” but for children.</p>	<p>Learn to think about the gospel, know the heart of Christianity. Lead to children being evangelists.</p>	<p>Variety for adults. Helpful for parents.</p>	<p>Knowing and loving God, and knowing what he has done for each person is important. The gospel is central to that</p>	<p>We care about our kids knowing the central point of Christianity.</p>	<p>Could be too complex or try to cover too much in the time frame.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ focus on one aspect of the gospel at a time ➔ use narrative or illustration (but only one at a time – don’t mix metaphors) ➔ the pinterest and kidswise and the internet in general have some pre-thought out really helpful presentations BUT be discerning <p>Children could feel that they have “heard it before”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ take the opportunity to share that this IS the most important part of Christianity, and what makes Christianity different to other religions ➔ use as opportunity to point to evangelism ➔ be as clear and as real as you can that the Gospel is the best and most exciting and wonderful news for YOU personally – the children can see this most clearly.
<p>Apologetics</p> <p>Simple evidence/support of the Christian faith e.g. Jesus is a real historical person, or the historical evidence of the empty tomb</p>	<p>Children will be faced with opposition and ignorance about Christianity from their peers. Children may be the only Christian at their school so spending time sharing the logic and reason behind faith in Jesus can be particularly helpful for these children for their own faith and also for their evangelism.</p>	<p>Makes adults aware of the experiences of Christian children today. Helpful for their own confidence in the faith and evangelism.</p>	<p>God is real and true. He can be known. Following Him is not just “blind faith”</p>	<p>Asking tricky questions is ok. Seeking out answers/proof/logic is encouraged. We do this together to build up each other’s faith.</p>	<p>Could be too complex or try to cover too much in the time frame.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ focus on one point/simple topic at a time ➔ use narrative or illustration (but only one illustration or plot at a time – don’t mix metaphors) ➔ visuals are helpful ➔ could frame it in “tricky questions” or “how can I believe” title/segment.
<p>Event specific</p> <p>A kids talk/teaching related to an event occurring at church or in the community e.g. The Lord’s Supper, Mother’s/Father’s Day, Baptism, First day of school</p>	<p>Children’s understanding of the event is clarified See God’s involvement in the event</p>	<p>Conversation starter with the children Also clarity and time for reflection for adults</p>	<p>God is a part of the events of our lives and invites us into special activities/events when we follow him</p>	<p>We share life together, we explain our traditions/symbols</p>	<p>Could be too complex or try to cover too much in the time frame.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ focus on one point/simple topic at a time ➔ use narrative or illustration (but only one illustration or plot at a time – don’t mix metaphors) ➔ visuals are helpful ➔ ask the children for their contributions

