



**ABC's for Parents and Other Adults:**

**PARENTS**, have your children use the bathroom and get them drinks before the service begins so that trips from the sanctuary are less necessary during worship.

**ARRIVE** in time to find a good place to sit. Make sure your children can see. Let them sit on an aisle or use the front pews.

**BRING** something along for the little ones to hold or look at—something soft or quiet—crayons, coloring book, paper. Use books, crayons that are available just outside the sanctuary or something from home.

**HAVE** a “practice session” at home. The Lord’s Prayer, Hymn of Praise, etc., can be practiced to help children keep up with the service.

**DECIDE** on a clue to let children know that they need to settle down. (Pastor Raap’s mother used to raise her eyebrow or index finger!)

**EXPRESS** joy at having children worship with you. Send an occasional smile in their direction.

**FREE** yourself of anxieties. Relax!

**GIVE** thanks to God for the presence of children.

**HELP** parents of small children by showing your appreciation and support of OUR children.

**PARTICIPATE** actively in the service yourself. Our children learn to take faith and worship seriously when they see that it matters to adults!

(Adapted from a folder by St. James Episcopal Church, West Hartford)