

## 4 Teach Children to Pray By Themselves

**Note:** this is very hard at this age, but encourage the children to regularly pray with their mum and dad at home)

Provide children with scrapbooks and help them to create their own prayer dairy. This can then be taken and used at home.

### **Prayer Placemat:**

Take a photograph of the children and leaders in the Children's Church group. Print one copy per child on A4 paper. On a second A4 sheet make a collage of a number of photographs about your church family (i.e. the missionary families supported by your church, church family camp...).

Make one copy per child of each page and then laminate the two sheets back to back to make a prayer place mat.

Send the placemats home and encourage the children to pray for each other while they eat their breakfast, etc.

Note: you will need to ask permission from parents before taking photographs of children.

Talk to the children about what you've been praying about.

Regularly send home craft work (i.e. stencils, paintings, clay models..) that the children can use to remind them of what they have learned so they can pray about it during the week with their mum or dad.

This resource was downloaded from:  
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# Teaching Children To Pray

Activities suitable for use in Children's Church  
for children aged 2 to 6 years old

Children need to hear their leader/s pray each week

# 1 Teach Children to Pray Regularly

Pray at a set time each lesson (e.g. after the Bible story).

Pray regularly throughout the lesson:  
Before you eat morning tea, at the beginning of the lesson, for the birthday person etc.

Model stopping to pray during your lesson when children share some news (the birth of a brother, mother in hospital, told friend about Jesus, an accident).

# 2 Teach Children to Vary Their Prayers

## Prayer collages:

Collect photos or magazine pictures of significant people and things (pets, creation photos, holiday photos, church leaders).

Make a group collage in a scrapbook or on a large notice board.

Add to the collage every now and then.

Direct children to pray in response to what they have learned from the Bible (i.e. Dear God, thank you that you saved the Israelites. Thank you that you saved us. Amen).

At this age, encourage the children to repeat a prayer, phrase by phrase, after you.

## How Do You Feel?

(download the resource file titled, *How Do You Feel?* from the Kidswise web site, [www.kidswise.com.au](http://www.kidswise.com.au)).

Make one copy per child. Laminate each copy. Have the child/children select a face and pray/talk to God about when they feel like that or about someone they know who may feel like that.

## Prayer beginnings:

Introduce and use the following prayer beginnings, one at a time, to help the children vary what they pray about.

- Dear God, I'm sorry for... (confession)
- Thank you Lord for... (thankfulness)
- Loving Father, thank you for being ... (praise)
- Dear Jesus, please help me when I feel ... (tell God your pain, your laughter)
- Dear God, please help me ... (requests)
- Dear Father, please help \_\_\_\_\_ (name) ... (petition)

Brainstorm before praying. (e.g. What has God given us that we can thank him for?)

Make a cube that has different pictures on it. Children roll the cube and pray for what is on the picture.

Draw a circle. Divide the circle into 8 sections. Children draw a picture or glue a picture from a magazine onto each section of the circle. Cut an arrow out of cardboard and attach with a split pin to the centre of the circle. Have children spin and then pray for what is in the picture.

# 3 Teach Children to Pray Out Loud

## Popcorn prayers:

An adult begins and ends the prayer. The children add a word or two to the prayer. This can be done by quickly going around the circle or by allowing the children to simply call out at random.  
Dear God thank you for making... (adult) flowers (child 1) my toe (child 2) a beautiful world (child 3) ... Amen (adult)

## Prayer circle:

Sit in a circle. Pray around the circle. After each person prays they squeeze the hand or tap the shoulder of the person beside them.

## Prayer lucky dip:

Put a photograph of each member of the group or a picture from a magazine into a box. Children then select a photograph/picture and pray.

## Person of the week:

Select one child to be the person of the week (keep a record to ensure all children get a turn). Have the child hold up a window frame to their face, wear a special hat, etc.  
Each person in the group prays a one-sentence prayer for that child.