



Christian Family  
Movement



MAKE FRIENDS | MAKE DISCIPLES | MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

## CHILDREN AND CFM MEETINGS

### **babysitting**ideas

**Assist couples who have difficulty getting a sitter lined up for their children.**

- Collect & share contact info for sitters whom group members recommend. Some couples may not know any sitters.
- Recommend that members ask their regular sitter if she wants an "ongoing" sitting job. Line her up for a monthly job (eg. every first Saturday) for the whole year ahead. Give her a reminder call on your CFM week.
- Some couples pair up and hire 1 sitter for 2 families, getting the children together for the evening as well. CFM friends can grow into family.

### **babysitters**atthe**meeting**

**Many families would not come to the meeting if it meant they had to find and pay for a sitter each month.** If you provide sitters during your meeting, families will likely have to pay less. Even better, maybe your parish has Confirmation candidates who need service hours and would sit for free. Alternatively, some parishes are willing to pay for the sitters if you meet in parish facilities.

Be clear about who is responsible for arranging for the group sitters (i.e. leader, or host couple) and how much couples are expected to pay (e.g. \$ per child under 8yo).

# childrenatthemeeting

**The Observe Judge Act portion of the meeting is meant for adults only.**

The presence of children may disrupt conversation and prevent open sharing of faith and life experiences which can include material that isn't for little ears. We recommend that if you bring children to the meeting, you provide a separate space for them to gather (e.g. separate meeting room, downstairs, or outside). Bringing children to the meeting allows CFM children to build friendships.

Depending on the ages of the children, you may need to hire babysitters to stay with the children during the meeting.



## whatshouldtheydo?

**Above all, ensure that the children enjoy themselves.** You wouldn't want to come back to the next CFM meeting if you didn't have a good time. Your children won't either.

With older children, you may wish to include them in the opening and closing prayer portion of your meeting. Following the opening prayer, send them off to their separate space.

Children can also share in the fellowship portion of the meeting.

For during the meeting, it's easiest to choose a loose children's program: social time, board games, kickball, crafts, etc. If the children have fun, they look forward to coming back to CFM next month.

There are numerous resources for quality children's programs and activities available. Of course, you would need an adult volunteer to lead a structured program. Make sure your group agrees on the materials and on sharing the work load of running a structured children's program.

**Consider family and group actions that allow and encourage your children's participation.**

This is one of the best ways for them to be involved in CFM!

# ablessingeitherway!

CFM builds up families whether or not you bring your children to the meetings. As you enrich your marriage, strengthen your faith, and learn to put faith into action, these blessings will filter down to your children.



## Click on our leader resources below!



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Materials



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Christian Family Movement-USA



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