



Building Relationships When You're Busy

How can I build relationships with parents and carers when I'm busy running a group?

When you are busy actually running a group, it can seem hard to build relationships with parents and carers. Conversations get interrupted; time seems to run away with you. There are simple steps you can take to create space for relationships to grow.

01

Key Ideas

- **Can you be flexible at the beginning and end of sessions**, arriving a little earlier so you have plenty of time to set up and be around; building in time at the end of sessions just to hang around?
- **Use your team.** You might have people who are natural relationship builders - can you release them to be 'parent pastors', people whose main role is to simply chat and be there? Use those people on the registration or front desk too.
- **Greet parents and carers as enthusiastically as you do the kids** - remember their names, things they've told you.
- **You might want to offer specific times** - I'm always in the office on Tuesdays or free for a coffee this Friday - just message me if you'd like a chat.
- **If you run a toddler group, check out the Refresh model** on the Parenting for Faith website, which shifts the focus to parents and carers while still being a typical toddler group.

02

Top Tips from Others

- In the holidays, open the building for a couple of hours and invite families to play with no agenda.

- Plan the group in a way that you're not busy the whole time.
- Stand in the welcome area as people arrive.
- Learn people's names.
- Try and talk to different people each week.

FIND OUT MORE

- › The Refresh Model

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SPACE FOR YOUR THOUGHTS
