

## 13 Ways Faith Communities Can Support Children

- Educate congregations through worship bulletin inserts (see sample in appendix)
- Organize a Children's Sabbath, held annually the third weekend in October. On the Children's Sabbath, religious congregations hold special worship services, religious education programs, and congregational activities inspiring people of faith to respond to children's needs. It encourages a long-term commitment to help children and families through prayer, education, service, and advocacy. Please visit [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org) for more information.
- Organize forums on early childhood issues facing your community from a faith community perspective.
- Sponsor training sessions for congregations that address their social outreach ministry needs.
- Provide an effective vehicle to educate and involve congregations in public policy issues.
- Create a church-sponsored family-support center providing child care, family social activities, and resources.
- Provide child care so parents can attend services. Care can be extended into the morning, freeing parents for a quiet breakfast together. Some churches offer Parents' Morning Out programs one morning during the week.
- Support church-based and community-based programs for young fathers and single mothers.
- Reach out to parents and children beyond your neighborhoods by teaming up with suburban or inner-city congregations to sponsor programs and offer resources.
- Start a children's inoculation center staffed by volunteer doctors and nurses from the congregation.
- Offer child care and preschool programs of improved quality.
- Enlist older members of the congregation to share their talents and services with young parents and children.
- Organize a Community Covenant for Children.