



**THE  
TOP 10 LIST**

**FOR  
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMERS**

**AT  
FIRST UNITARIAN**

**1. There MUST be two responsible persons with our children at all times.**

If one person is alone with children we are taking a chance with the safety of our children and placing our volunteers at risk. If we cannot arrange for two volunteers who are known in our church, we must - with regret - ask that children remain with their parents.

**2. Church for one? Sure!**

If there are two responsible persons available, we "make church happen" as enthusiastically for one child as we do for fifty! Particularly in the summer when fewer children attend, we can help to build community on-the-spot by inviting the child(ren) to help us set up for candle-lighting or activities and by being sure to learn each other's names.

**3. Children do not leave our grounds without written permission.**

Parents are reassured to know where their children are while they attend church.

**4. Our Children Cherish their Routine.**

Our children have come to rely upon their opening candle-lighting ritual as a time to introduce a new child, to tell us about an upcoming birthday or to share their joys and sorrows. They know their rituals so well that they can help to guide you if you are unsure! Just ask!

**5. A Word about Washrooms**

We encourage our children to only use the washrooms in the children's area of the church. For safety reasons, these washrooms are the most suited as the fixtures are sized for children and adults are discouraged from using these facilities when children are present. Since children over 3 are involved in our program, they are expected to be self-sufficient while using the facilities. Volunteers should not assist children with toileting.

**6. Children's Church is a Nut-free, Sugar Reduced Zone**

over please .....

Severe nut allergies which can cause anaphylaxis are increasingly common. For this reason we avoid peanut butter and read package labels carefully for nuts and nut oils. Many parents wish to limit their child's sugar consumption and we therefore limit the number of Sundays on which sweets are served in favour of popcorn, tortilla chips, pretzels, fresh fruit etc.

**7. Adults model respectful, peaceable behaviour at church.**

We can lower our voice rather than raising it when we seek to be heard. Our words, tone of voice, body language and active listening can convey that we are interested in and respectful of children in our care.

**8. Matches Up, Candles Out Please!**

Children are curious! And they love our candle-lighting rituals. Please take extra care to put matches **out of sight** and **out of reach**, never to leave children unattended with lit candles, and to be sure candles are extinguished as soon as they are no longer needed.

**9. About Problems ....**

Children are reassured when we remain calm and cheerful when things don't go as planned. We can be flexible and able to change course if something is going poorly.

**10. Most importantly: Have Fun!**

If you are able, sit or kneel to get down on a child's level. Simply relaxing and showing our children that we delight in them and are enjoying watching them work and play together--- is a great gift for everyone!