



Welcome!

Together, We Make Epico Kids A Community

Epico Kids is more than a Sunday program. It's a community we build together.

This guide is designed to help us understand how we can each play our part in creating a Kids community where every child feels safe, included, valued and able to grow.

There are four important roles in creating a healthy Epico Kids

The Role of Kids

We encourage our children to live out our Epico values, care for one another and be part of the community.

The Role of Parents

You know your children best. Your encouragement, support and partnership with our team makes a huge difference.

The Role of Team

Our Kids team creates a safe, engaging environment where children can learn, grow, have fun and belong.

The Role of Church Family

We are all part of the village. By welcoming, encouraging and including children, we help them feel seen, valued and that they belong.

We all contribute to the culture.

When Kids, Parents, Team & Church Family work together, we create something greater than any one of us could create alone: a generous community!

the role of children

At Epico, our six values aren't just words we talk about, **they are part of who we are and how we treat each other.**

In Epico Kids, we want children to learn what these values look like in everyday life.

We don't expect children to get it right every time. **We're helping them learn.**

Every Sunday is an opportunity to practise our values, encourage one another and discover what it means to be part of the Epico community.

We don't just teach our values, we create a culture where kids can live them.

Generosity!

We give, share and help.

- Sharing our things and our space
- Helping someone who needs it
- Including others
- Being generous with our words and encouragement

Community!

We belong & help others belong.

- Making friends and welcoming others
- Joining in together
- Looking out for one another
- Celebrating others' wins

Creativity!

We imagine, explore & have a go.

- Asking questions
- Trying new things
- Sharing ideas
- Being willing to make mistakes and learn

Safety!

We help make Kids Church safe for everyone.

- Using kind and safe hands
- Listening to our leaders
- Respecting personal space
- Speaking up when something doesn't feel right

Kindness!

We treat people the way we want to be treated.

- Using encouraging words
- Including someone who is alone
- Helping rather than hurting
- Showing patience and forgiveness

Authenticity!

We can be ourselves and be honest.

- Being honest about how we feel
- Asking for help when we need it
- Being ourselves rather than pretending
- Knowing that we are loved and valued



the role of parents



Parents know their children best. While our Kids leaders bring preparation, experience and a genuine desire to care for every child, **Together we can help every child enjoy Kids Church, grow and find community.**

Before Kids Church!

- **Check-In** Register your child at the Epico Kids kiosk. Keep their **Family Number** with you in case we need to contact you.
- **Bathroom** - Please encourage your child to use the toilet before Kids Church begins.
- **Talk Positively** - Speak positively about Kids Church, their leaders and being part of the community.
- **Let Us Know** - If your child is particularly tired, upset, anxious or having a difficult day, please let a Kids leader know. This helps us support them well.
- **Encourage Participation** - Encourage your child to join in, have fun and be part of the community.

During Kids Church!

- Our Kids leaders are responsible for creating a **safe, positive and engaging environment** for every child.
- Every child is given a **family number** at check-in. This number may appear on the screen if we need you to come to Kids Church.
- Your child may need Mum or Dad, need to be taken to the bathroom, have become unwell, or experience a behaviour situation where your support is needed.
- If your number appears, please come to Kids Church as soon as possible. **Our aim is always to care for your child and we will never label or shame them.**
- If a leader needs to speak with you about something that has happened, we want to **work with you**, understand what happened and find the best way forward.
- Collect your child at the end of church
- Why not consider serving once a month to directly help input into kids church!

At Home After Kids Church

What happens at home is an important part of your child's growth.

- **Talk About the Lesson** - What did you learn today? What was your favourite part? What did you learn about God?
- **Live It Out Together** - Look for opportunities to put the lesson into practice during the week.
- **Pray Together** - Pray for your child, their friends and their Kids leaders.
- **Celebrate Their Growth** - Celebrate kindness, generosity, inclusion, questions, participation and learning.

kids the role of team

We don't expect perfect behaviour from children — and we don't expect perfection from our leaders. We aim to lead with **patience, consistency, kindness and grace**, while creating an environment where every child can thrive.

Before Kids Church!

- **Pray** - Pray for the children, families, leaders and the service ahead.
- **Prepare** - Know the lesson, activities and transitions. Be ready before children arrive.
- **Connect** - Welcome children by name, notice how they are doing and help them feel that they belong.
- **Create** - Prepare the room so it is safe, welcoming and ready for children to participate.

During Kids Church!

- **Teach & Encourage** — Teach the lesson, build confidence and celebrate participation.
- **Include & Care** — Help every child feel valued, included and safe.

When a child's behaviour begins to affect their experience or the experience of other children, we respond calmly, consistently and progressively.

Remind — Gentle Prompt

Calmly remind the child of the expected behaviour and give them an opportunity to self-correct.

Redirect — Positive Choice

Offer an alternative, simple choice or positive role to help the child re-engage.

Relocate — Change the Environment

Move the child to a quieter or less stimulating space to help them regulate and reset. This is support, not punishment.

Refer — Additional Support

If behaviour continues to escalate, becomes unsafe or significantly affects others, parents/carers will be contacted using the Family Number. At this point, children are asked to stay with parents or the parent is welcome to remain in kids church!

After Kids Church

- **Reflect & Improve** - Consider what worked, what didn't and what could be done differently next time.
- **Discuss** - Have a healthy conversation with parents and feedback any 'wins' or 'challenges'. The journey of every child is an ongoing dialogue as we partner together.
- **Celebrate** - Notice the wins. Celebrate children who connected, participated, showed kindness, learned something new or demonstrated our Epico values.

the role of church family

We believe it takes a village to raise a child, and our whole church family has a part to play in helping every child feel welcomed, valued and that they belong.

Before Kids Church!

- **Welcome** - Smile, say hello and make children feel noticed.
- **Make Space** - Give families room to settle in without judgement or pressure.
- **Include** - Look for opportunities to welcome new families and help them find their way.
- **Model** - Children learn by watching us. Model the values we want them to embrace.

During Kids Church!

- **Celebrate Kids** - Welcome the noise, movement and energy that comes with having children in church.
- **Encourage** - Cheer on kids when they participate, serve or engage.
- **Be Aware** - Notice children who may be sitting alone, unsettled or struggling to connect.
- **Model Our Values** - Live generosity, community, creativity, safety, kindness and authenticity in the way we interact with children and families.
- **Give Grace** - Remember that children are still learning and every child is different in how they connect, regulate and explore. Not every wriggle, noise or interruption needs a response.

After Kids Church

- **Pray** - Pray for families and children throughout the week
- **Connect** - Take time to say hello to kids and families rather than walking past them.
- **Build Community** - Invite families into conversations, meals and church life.
- **Be A 'Village'** - Be the safe, encouraging adults who help children know that they belong to something bigger than themselves.