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STORIES OF CHURCH LIFE DONE DIFFERENTLY

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## Restarting our Toddler Group Community

A story from High Street, Hollywood Presbyterian

At High Street Presbyterian, our Parent and Toddler group is of utmost importance.



First and foremost, it is a community; a place where parents/guardians can come to find friendship, support and encouragement, and where children can have fun with other children and learn how to interact together. From a church point of view, we also see the group as one of the key places where discipleship and evangelism take place.

Throughout the pandemic, sadly we had to close for quite some time, and there was a real sense of loss for those who had been coming along.

We knew that parents in our community were struggling to cope with the pressures of looking after children with very little support. So as soon as we were able to resume, we did. We have had to change our structure significantly - masks, social distancing, hand sanitizer etc. We also had to split the group across 2 sessions, and reduce the time to 1 hour per session, with a "deep clean" period in between.

Safe to say, the effort has been worthwhile. The parents/guardians who come along have expressed joy at having something back up and running again that enables a sense of community. And of course, we love having the opportunity to forge deep friendships, to show the love of God, and ultimately to point people towards Jesus. As a result, we've started to see a number of young families from the group join us for Sunday morning worship in recent months.

