

# Praying for Children — a checklist

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## Praying (general)

- Ask permission.
- Choose open area / with others around.
- If group prayer consider using a trained children's worker.
- Only those authorised by church leaders.

## Praying (specific)

- Ask and Listen.
- Quiet and Calm.
- Don't laugh at request.
- If no specific request just ask God to bless them.

## Praying (be alert)

- To child protection issues.
- Bullying.
- Consider writing the prayer down and give to child.

## Prayer (distress)

- Stop praying.
- Ask why (gently).
- Take advice from another leader.
- Only continue if child is comfortable.
- Are you the appropriate person?
- If unsure, don't continue.

## Prayer (practicalities)

- Body language.
- Don't touch head.
- If you do touch a hand or arm ask permission (best not to touch).
- Ask permission if anointing with oil.
- Speaking in tongues can cause distress.

## Language

- Use clear language.
- Reflect back.
- Keep prayer simple and short.

## Giving Advice

- Avoid giving specific advice.
- Children may be susceptible.
- Don't prophesy into their life.
- Never advise to stop taking medication or seeking professional help.
- Confidentiality can never be promised.

## Deliverance Ministry

- The belief in the infilling of Holy Spirit and conversely possession by evil spirits are theologically accepted across denominations. Praying with children needs to be done sensitively taking account of the physical and mental wellbeing of a child.
- Children can be easily frightened and very susceptible to suggestion. They may also be upset by shouting and will easily believe they are bad, wicked etc. A child should never be told they are demonised / possessed / oppressed.
- To cause a child to believe they are possessed by an evil spirit or witchcraft could cause them significant harm and be illegal.

There is a need for leaders to use wisdom, discernment and caution when confronted with this issue.