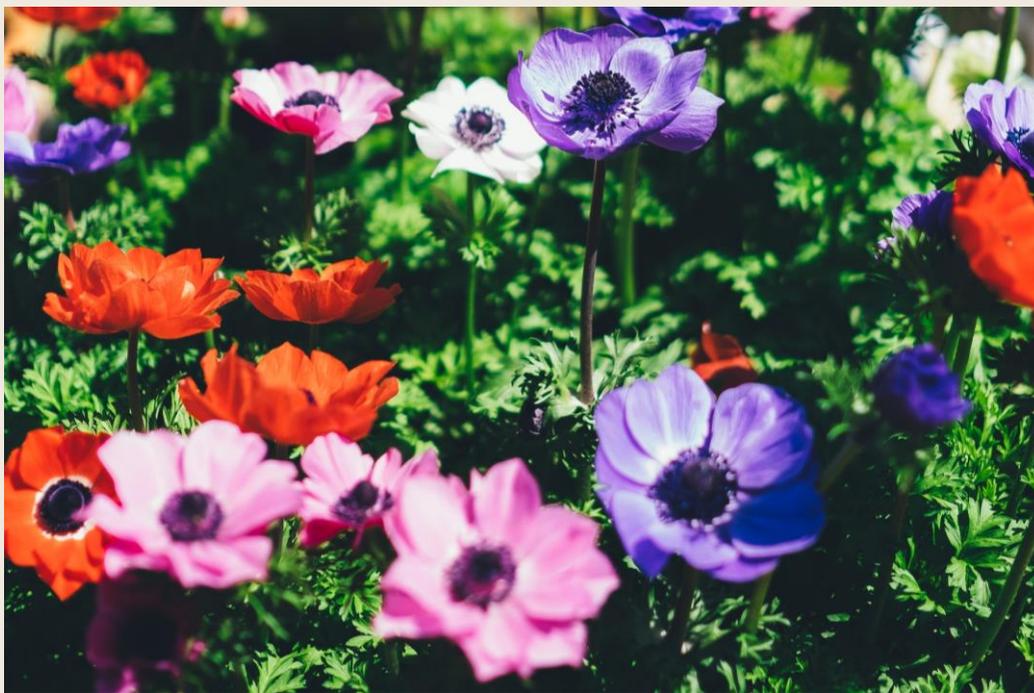




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# MOPS KIDS LEADER'S GUIDE



*#thisismotherhood*

# M MOPS Kids Leader's Guide

A mum needs to know her child is happy and safe so she can relax and enjoy her time in MOPS. Mums value 'time out' and the MOPS Kids program makes this possible.

MOPS Kids provide activities to allow children to learn, play, be creative and grow socially. Carers are able to show the love of Jesus and introduce them to simple truths about God.

If you'd like to know more about the role of **MOPS Kids Leader** – or if you'd like tips for creating a great kids' morning, this Guide is for you.

## MOPS Kids Team Leader Position Description

### Personal Characteristics:

- Has a growing personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Because many women and children in MOPS may not have committed their lives to Christ, she is in an excellent position to encourage others to make this decision.
- Displays sensitivity to needs of young mothers, even if she is not a mother of preschool children herself.
- Exhibits a dedication to meeting the needs of children and understands their eternal worth to God.
- Communicates well with children and adults.
- Understands what is involved in providing quality childcare to a group of small children.
- Thinks creatively about how to find and involve many people in a project.

## Position Responsibilities:

- Recruit MOPS Kids Carers, ensuring that the child care ratios and the requirements for working with children are met, including those set by Government, MOPS Australia and the chartering church.
- Select appropriate activities and bible stories, and plan the program for each morning.
- Train and encourage MOPS Kids Carers, either volunteers or paid help, and oversee the MOPS Kids program on the MOPS morning.
- Work with the Chartering Ministry and Leadership Team to establish policies and procedures for the MOPS Kids program and comply with those policies.
- Communicate with MOPS mums and ensure they are informed about location of rooms and policies for safety and attendance.
- Serve on the MOPS Leadership Team and attend meetings.
- Attend Leadership Training Days and Conferences.
- Read the MOPS Handbook, *Share Jesus* to understand the Purpose of MOPS. Read the MOPS Kids Child Care Guidelines. Be aware of MOPS Kids resources available in the Supplementary Documents.

## Building a MOPS Kids Team

Recruiting MOPS Kids Carers can be challenging for a MOPS Kids Team Leader. Building this team should not be a single-person effort but is a project that should involve your entire Leadership Team, your Chartering Church and possibly your entire MOPS group. Your MOPS group may pay them for their time or they may serve as volunteers.

MOPS Kids Carers keep children safe and entertained but they are more than baby sitters. They may be the only people who tell a child how much Jesus loves them. Understanding this ministry vision will help you build a dedicated group of Carers.

Requiring all MOPS Kids Carers to be Christian provides a deeper spiritual foundation but may create complications if your group decides to use MOPS mums, mums on a waiting list, or home schooled children as Carers. Consult with your Chartering Church to establish responsibilities or requirements for MOPS Kids Carers.

Recruitment is the process by which people catch the vision, get interested, become volunteers, and get involved. Recruitment doesn't just happen. It is a prayerful process that comes with a plan.

Begin this process by praying as a Leadership Team for MOPS Kids Carers, recognising that this behind-the-scenes team serves both the child and the mum and will have an enormous spiritual impact on your group. Pray that the right people would have a willing spirit and a heart for the ministry. Then organise a plan of action as a team, determining where and how you will recruit Carers.

### **General recruiting guidelines:**

- ❑ Always consult with your Chartering Church before recruiting MOPS Kids Carers. They may have specific childcare policies and procedures for you to follow.
- ❑ Interview and screen potential recruits. It is useful to have an application process. Request and check references. When interviewing potential carers, ask about their childcare experience and follow up on any background issues.
- ❑ Potential Carers may feel inadequate or unqualified. Share why you consider them to be suitable, explain their specific qualities and your training procedures.
- ❑ Abide by Government regulations for people working with children. Comply with policies of the Chartering Church and the MOPS Australia Child Care Guidelines.
- ❑ Listen to potential recruits. If someone is not ready to serve now, they may be willing to consider it in the future or may be able to recommend someone else. They may go on a 'relief' roster. Having a relief roster will reduce stress for when a Carer cannot attend.

## Who to look for:

- Mothers of older children
- Dads
- Senior citizens
- Teenagers
- College students
- Women without children

## Retain Carers.

Once you have a team of carers, work on keeping them interested and committed to this important ministry. Carers will appreciate being trained and equipped for the role and knowing they are appreciated. Emphasise their value in the MOPS ministry. (More ways to train and encourage Carers are in the MOPS Supplementary Documents.)

## MOPS Kids Activities

Preschoolers can be full of energy and easily distracted. A regular schedule and standard activities keep them engaged throughout the MOPS meeting time. Your plan and schedule for your MOPS Kids program will depend on the length of your MOPS meetings, the curriculum you use, and the space and resources that are available.

Here are some program ideas that toddlers and preschoolers will enjoy:

- Supervised free play (distressed children may need help to settle.)
- Play at designated learning centres (playdough, bubbles, construction, collage, sand play, etc.)
- Bible story time
- Singing/music (action songs with motions and finger plays)
- Reading aloud
- Snacks
- Outdoor play
- Craft projects
- Group games

Consider the developmental stages for each age group and plan activities accordingly. A regular routine provides stability for children who may feel unsettled. A loving nursery is ideal for babies.

A well planned morning provides an environment where Carers can help young children learn, interact, develop friendships and discover more about the love of Jesus.

MOPS Australia has produced the **MOPPETS\* Experience Kit** to support your MOPS Kids leaders.

The Kit comes with 40 START-STORY-SING-PLAY planning cards. Each planning card provides a full morning of activities, songs and stories for small children. The MOPPETS Experience Kits are not 'annual' products but are perpetual and can be used in a two-year cycle. These are available from the MOPShop. (\*MOPS Kids was previously known as MOPPETS.)

## Further Reference

The **MOPS Leader Handbook** has useful information for the MOPS Kids Leader.

The **Supplementary Documents 20-23** contain information and templates to support the MOPS Kids Leader, including the following:

- MOPS Kids Child Care Guidelines
- Communicating well with Mums
- Special Needs Children
- Discipline
- Finding MOPS Kids Carers
- Training and Retaining Carers
- MOPS Kids Carer's Application
- MOPS Kids Registration Form
- MOPS Kids Sign In Sheet
- Sample MOPS Kids Morning

The **MOPS Leader Handbook** is available from the MOPShop and the **Supplementary Documents** are a customisable resource that can be downloaded from the Leader Section of [www.mops.org.au](http://www.mops.org.au)

## A Sample MOPS Kids Morning

Length	Babies	Toddlers & Preschoolers
30 mins	MOPS Kids team members meet for prayer and then set up the nursery and playroom ready for the morning program.	
30 mins	<b>Welcome:</b> Welcome mums and bubs as they arrive (parents sign them in). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Babies are nursed or engaged in interactive play.</li> </ul>	<b>Welcome and Indoor Play:</b> Welcome mum and child as they arrive (parents sign in). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carer engages child in various activities: playdough, dress-ups, car mat, cars, kitchen or puzzles.</li> </ul>
30 mins	<b>Outdoor Play:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Balls</li> <li>Ride-on toys</li> <li>Playground equipment</li> <li>Sandpit</li> </ul>	<b>Bible Time:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Play School' type songs (to get them singing!)</li> <li>Bible songs</li> <li>Bible story</li> <li>Bible related activity</li> </ul>
25 mins	<b>Morning Tea and Story:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bible story</li> <li>Bible songs</li> </ul>	<b>Art, Craft and Games:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Craft (may be Bible related)</li> <li>General indoor play</li> <li>Group games</li> </ul>
10 mins	<b>Morning Tea</b>	<b>Morning Tea</b>
20 mins	<b>Indoor play:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Story books</li> <li>Toys</li> <li>Play equipment</li> </ul>	<b>Outdoor play:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ride-on toys, tricycles, balls</li> <li>Playground equipment</li> <li>Wet play (eg hanging 'washing', blowing bubbles)</li> <li>Messy play (eg sandpit, rice)</li> </ul>
5 mins	<b>Pack Away Time:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Get children's things together</li> </ul> Mums come and collect children (and sign out).	<b>Pack Away Time:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group games (eg ring-a-rosie, parachute)</li> <li>Quiet play, story books</li> </ul> Mums come and collect children (sign out). It's reassuring for the mums if the room is fairly tidy and children settled when they arrive.
15 mins	MOPS Kids team put away toys and clean up room.	

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