

No frills... just some hopefully helpful child-care ideas for your small group.

- 1 **TAKE TURNS**---When our kids were small, Kelly and I started a small group SPECIFICALLY for parents with young kids. It was “play date – meets small group heaven.” We met in different places—but wherever we met we made sure there was a place where one or two adults could hang/play with all the kids while the group engaged in our meeting. We set a time limit and stuck to it—out of respect for whoever was watching the kids that week. Each time we met, a different adult (or two) took their turn watching the kids during the meeting time. After our study—we did “family time.” We ate and just hung out as families for an hour—or so. This worked AWESOME for us.
- 2 **Care for one another**---Take up a collection from the whole group, including those who have no children (this is all part of “meeting one another’s needs, Acts. 2:42-47) and pay a teen, or two from the church to watch the kids. If anyone in the group has a home that has a space where the kids and babysitter can play—that’s great! If not, you can always meet at the church. Another option if the kids are all small ---is to meet at a fast-food restaurant with a play land!

What you do all depends on the age of the kids and how many you have. I was in a group one where the host (where we met) had an awesome finished basement—and two teen-aged girls

who were happy to play with the kids for one hour a week—FOR FREE! You never know. Be creative. Think outside the box. Google—“child care suggestions for small groups”. **The key is to make community a priority.** If it’s important---you’ll find a way to make it happen---**we always find a way to do the things we really want to do.** God will honor and bless your efforts! Remember— they grow up fast, this season will pass before you know it—so press-in and embrace the challenge and make some great memories with your small group!

Blessings,
Pastor Brad