



**Be a good example in worship and
your child will most likely follow.**

Children learn to worship by seeing
their family and others worship.

They need adults to guide them to
form good worship habits. As he

sees you enjoy the singing, bow your
head in reverence during the prayer,

read the Bible, and listen to the

pastor, your child will learn to enjoy

worshipping with you.

**HONOR THE WONDERFUL NAME OF
THE LORD, AND WORSHIP THE
LORD MOST HOLY AND GLORIOUS.**

PSALM 29:2 (CEV)

Preparing Your Child for Worship



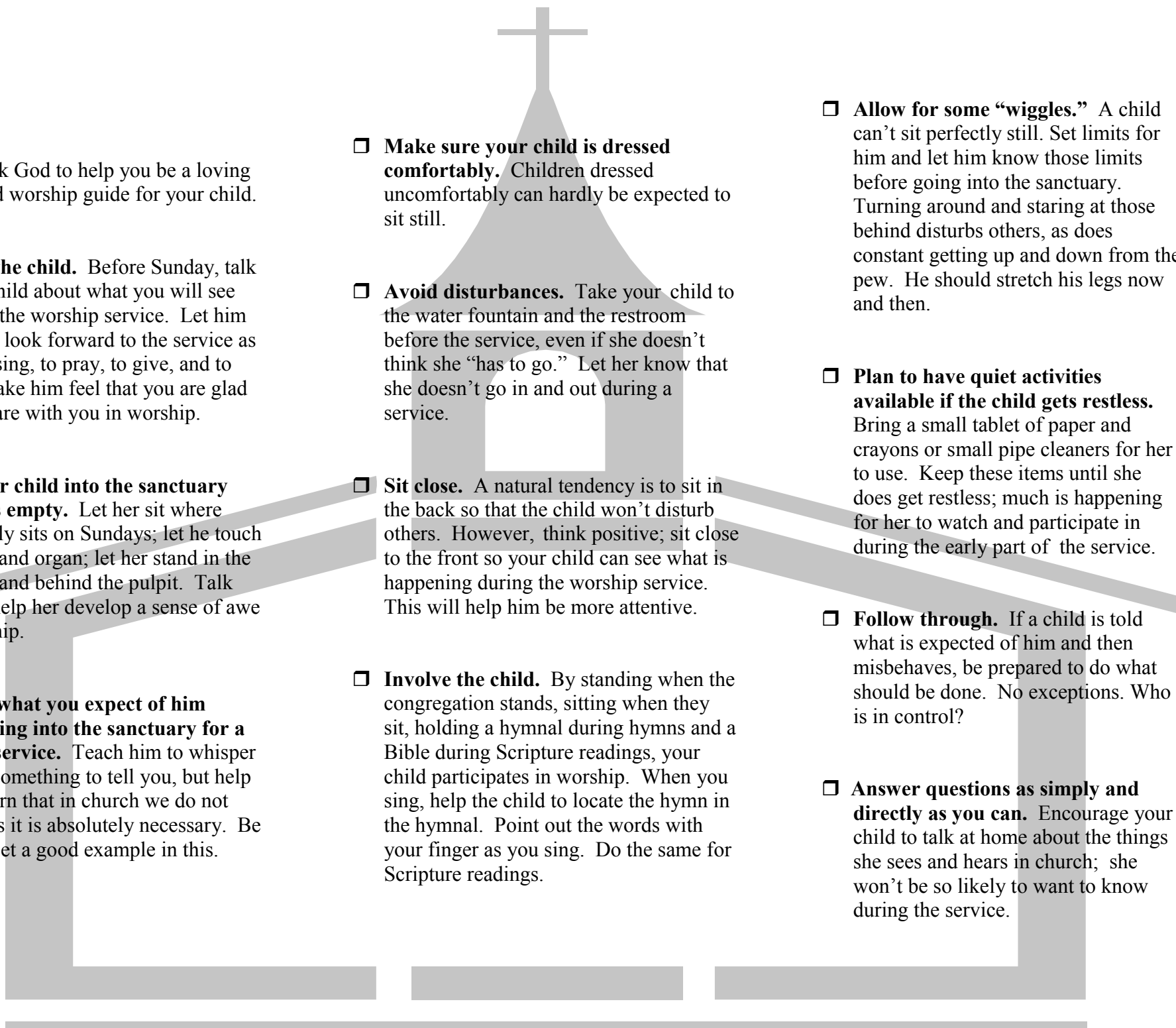
**SOUTH CAROLINA
BAPTIST CONVENTION**

Childhood Ministry Group

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Pray. Ask God to help you be a loving parent and worship guide for your child.

Prepare the child. Before Sunday, talk to your child about what you will see and do in the worship service. Let him know you look forward to the service as a time to sing, to pray, to give, and to listen. Make him feel that you are glad he can share with you in worship.

Take your child into the sanctuary when it is empty. Let her sit where your family sits on Sundays; let her touch the piano and organ; let her stand in the choir loft and behind the pulpit. Talk softly to help her develop a sense of awe and worship.

Tell him what you expect of him before going into the sanctuary for a worship service. Teach him to whisper if he has something to tell you, but help him to learn that in church we do not talk unless it is absolutely necessary. Be sure you set a good example in this.

Make sure your child is dressed comfortably. Children dressed uncomfortably can hardly be expected to sit still.

Avoid disturbances. Take your child to the water fountain and the restroom before the service, even if she doesn't think she "has to go." Let her know that she doesn't go in and out during a service.

Sit close. A natural tendency is to sit in the back so that the child won't disturb others. However, think positive; sit close to the front so your child can see what is happening during the worship service. This will help him be more attentive.

Involve the child. By standing when the congregation stands, sitting when they sit, holding a hymnal during hymns and a Bible during Scripture readings, your child participates in worship. When you sing, help the child to locate the hymn in the hymnal. Point out the words with your finger as you sing. Do the same for Scripture readings.

Allow for some "wiggles." A child can't sit perfectly still. Set limits for him and let him know those limits before going into the sanctuary. Turning around and staring at those behind disturbs others, as does constant getting up and down from the pew. He should stretch his legs now and then.

Plan to have quiet activities available if the child gets restless. Bring a small tablet of paper and crayons or small pipe cleaners for her to use. Keep these items until she does get restless; much is happening for her to watch and participate in during the early part of the service.

Follow through. If a child is told what is expected of him and then misbehaves, be prepared to do what should be done. No exceptions. Who is in control?

Answer questions as simply and directly as you can. Encourage your child to talk at home about the things she sees and hears in church; she won't be so likely to want to know during the service.