



CALL TO ACTION

WEEK 1: LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME

- Over the next week, take time in the morning or evening to pray this breath prayer for children and for childlikeness: (*breathe in*) God, embrace me like a child, (*breathe out*) so I may embrace children like Christ. Amen.
- Take a walk through your neighborhood looking for signs of young children. Do you know the families in your neighborhood by name or by sight? If not, look for an opportunity this week to introduce yourself to a family on your street. If you do know a family in your neighborhood, consider whether there's something you could do to show them hospitality and kindness, especially their children. Knowing that others value the presence of children can help a family feel more welcome in their neighborhood.
- Consider how you and/or your church can invest in helping parents learn to build secure attachments with their children and create a stable home environment. Perhaps your church could bring in an early childhood expert to offer a free class to parents in the community or offer free child care for one afternoon a month so that parents can have some time to tend to their own mental and physical health while children also benefit from the opportunity to play and explore in a safe environment. Another idea is to form a story hour with parents or church members reading to children.
- Consider putting together an event to help eligible families sign up for child care subsidies and other local resources using information from the Kansas Department for Children & Families (DCF) website at http://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/ees/pages/child_care/childcaresubsidy.aspx. Locate child care providers as well as Head Start and Early Head Start centers in

your area: <https://ks.childcareaware.org/childcaresearch/> and <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/center-locator>. Contact these centers and ask how you and/or your church can help increase families' access to their centers.