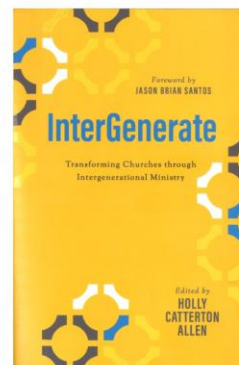


InterGenerate

Transforming Churches through Intergenerational Ministry



Building on the foundation laid by [Intergenerational Christian Formation](#), *InterGenerate: Transforming Churches through Intergenerational Ministry* is an invaluable resource that will assist your church in the development of a more intergenerational culture. This handout is part of a series that seeks to encourage you to dig deeper into [InterGenerate](#).

Ch. 12 Babies and Toddlers, Too?

Dawn Rundman

“This chapter presents a brief snapshot of a few findings from studies of language, early literacy, and music in young children. These three areas can be viewed as central in understanding the church’s unique role in providing a rich neurological context for early childhood development.” p.164

“Experiences shape young brains, and parents and other primary caregivers exert significant influence on their child’s neurological development, because they are the ones deciding on the contexts for these experiences. A congregation can serve as one of these contexts for development during the first three years, especially in the areas of language, literacy, and music.” p.166

“Considering, then, these vulnerable and competent children in our church communities, what if we viewed early childhood ministry as an innovative expression of intergenerational ministry? Such a view could be a way to overcome our hurdles, blind spots, and perceived barriers. What follows are several proposed points of intersection between early childhood ministry and other people, ministries, and programs in congregations.” p.168

“What if churches provided opportunities for youth to recognize their gifts for childcare by providing ways to match young children to skilled teenage caregivers...

What if churches prioritized couples’ marriages while their children were infants and toddlers....

What if churches took the opportunity to equip parents to raise their children in the faith...

What if churches sought to educate and support grandparents of young children...

What if churches helped every child be fed...

What if churches were deliberate in how they appealed to families with young children that are seeking a church home...

What if every worship service had songs you could learn by heart, colourful liturgical images, and opportunities for movement and praise...” pp.168-170

“Finally, I want to affirm that early childhood ministry is bidirectional. We do not just minister to young children. Young children minister to us by their presence, their vulnerability, and their embodiment of who Jesus us calls us to be.” p.170

Intrigued? Challenged? Want to find out more? Read the full chapter in [InterGenerate](#).

Chris Barnett July 2020