

# Intermediate stage

mainly music and mainly play

## Options

Here are some options you could consider as restrictions lift. You might want to wait for families to get back into their school/early childhood routines before starting. Your church building might be off limits even if school is back.

There is a need to work through

- What does the Government say?
- In New Zealand, if you are a Ministry of Education certified mainly music, what do they say?
- What does your church say?
- What does the team say?

## Outdoor sessions

Meet at a local park and run a session using a portable speaker and phone. Everyone can keep their distance by staying on their picnic rug.

In terms of the session, keep doing what you have been doing (Zoom session or 'Watch the on-line session provided by mainly music') and then meet at a park for a play date.

## At the venue where sessions usually occur

Limit the number of families if the room is small or if restrictions have lifted but are still not sufficient for your whole group to return. Or if you have a smaller team. This could be achieved by putting families on a cycle - this week it's this group of families; next week it's another group.

## Keep doing what you're doing

Keep using Zoom and/or the on-line session provided by mainly music as is already happening. Do one more drop off of a craft pack or ask families to come past the church building or your home to do a pick up from a table outdoors.

## Home-based sessions

Volunteers, whether they are using the Session Facilitators or not, could:

- Invite 3-4 families to your home (depending on the size of the home/families) once older children have gone back to school.  
Or one of the families might invite families and the Team Member to their house.
- House would need a television screen that could Chromecast or was connected to the internet.
- Use an on-line session that includes props families could bring with them or were easily found around the house. Alternatively, they could be dropped off from the mainly music or mainly play cupboard.
- The person hosting the session could provide morning tea for the adults. Or it might be that families bring a lunch box and hot drinks are the only item provided by the host.
- Toys could be volunteer's own or a box provided by the Team Leader (from the cupboard).

Sessions would be repeated for two to three weeks.

## Considerations

These items need finalisation before 'mainly music at home' or 'mainly play at home' happens:

- If running sessions from home, include a start and finishing time. This way, families are aware of not staying on forever.

- In countries other than New Zealand, your church would need to inform the insurance broker or insurer that additional locations are being used on behalf of the church. In talking with an insurance broker in the UK, there is no problem with this change; it's best to inform the insurance company rather than spring it on them in a claim.
- All groups need to obtain confirmation that your church's Child Safety Policy includes details about home-based events.



## Props

Here's an idea for cleanliness and eliminating cross contamination.

Covid is going to be around for a while. You could consider family-owned 'Prop bags'. Wash and clean all your main props - scarves, maraca, claves, tambourines, bells, bean bags, and I Spy/LOVE sheets.

In a bag (we can suggest a great bag for this!) place two of each except the I Spy/LOVE sheets and that becomes a 'one child' bag. If you use the feather and rainbow songs from Original Songs Volume 3, you might want to add these props too. That gives grown-up and child a set of props each. It's important for grown-ups to model the moves and actions.

For additional children in the family, have other bags made up with one of everything. Then sell these to your families -

a one off charge. They keep the bag/contents, clean them and care for them. And when new families join, you can sell more prop bags. (FYI mainly music will be selling complete prop bags in the near future as an option for families to purchase when attending groups.)

Every 3-4 weeks when your session content changes, send an email, Facebook notice, TXT or WhatsApp message to all the families. *You'll need a shaker/maraca and claves this week.*

Keep 3-5 bags available for first time families that are cleaned out each session.

We recommend that for the next season, while people are getting used to all the Covid implications, limit the use of parachutes and Lycra.

You're probably aware that for a child, the actions of leaving their grown-up and coming to the front or receiving the prop as they sit quietly are full of learning and attachment experience. You could give a feather to each child or have them come to the front, line up (another learning experience) and collect a feather, running back to their grown-up to discuss the colour they have. With the expectation - the feathers don't come back!!! They go into the bag and whether they stay or not, the next time you use feather songs for 3-4 weeks, you'll give out a new issue!

## Team members

If some families from your church can't return to work and have pre-schoolers, maybe they would like to join the team and enjoy music, even for a season.

## If team members wish to wear face masks

Take a photo of their face without the mask and then a second photo with the mask. Place the two photos, side by side, with their name easily readable on a noticeboard. This will become a place where children can be assured that the masked person is still Carol, whether she is wearing a mask or not!

We hope these ideas become a springboard for even better ideas that unfold at your location!