

Setting Goals

Okay – I’ve checked my community for readiness – now what?

Whether you used the survey provided in the toolkit *Joy & Wonder* from Episcopal Relief & Development or simply had a series of conversations with stakeholders around early childhood development, you now have a sense of how interested your community is in pursuing this ministry and at what level.

What if the response was only lukewarm? What are my options?

Observe [Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday](#). It is simple, and the website offers a host of resources. You can incorporate prayers and petitions into a worship service and include the brochures available for free in each worship leaflet. Doing so illuminates the work of Episcopal Relief & Development, which may inspire others to be more responsive next time around.

You can also order and distribute our [Gifts for Life](#) catalogs. This is a fun and hope-filled way to engage your community in Episcopal Relief & Development’s program priorities, including Early Childhood Development.

What if the response was resounding, and people started requesting more staff, space and funding?

You’re gonna need a bigger boat. It’s time to start setting some goals and getting started!

First, your community will need to develop a plan to create or accelerate your Early Childhood Development ministry. Find a time to gather the people who showed interest, even in different areas, and explore with them the creation of a couple of short- and long-term goals. Prioritize the goals based on the interest shown both by the initial surveys and by those who actually attend the meetings. Once you’ve developed a few of these goals, explore questions around each goal, including:

1. SHOULD WE ADJUST OR INNOVATE?

- Do we have an existing intentionality around Early Childhood Development in our community?
- Is it effective, reaching those it needs to reach and relevant to what our community has expressed as its interests?
- Can this current program be improved?
- Do we have the resources and capacity to make the necessary adjustments? If not, are there other community programs that offer these services that we can direct our faith community to?

2. WHERE SHOULD WE START TAKING ACTION?

- Contact your closest Ministry Partner from Episcopal Relief & Development and invite them to a meeting. If you need help finding your Diocesan Ministry Partner, contact us at engagement@episcopalrelief.org
- Articulate your goals as a team.
- Prioritize your resources—time, space, prayers, people and money—accordingly.
- Outline action steps, making sure that your program reflects early childhood development best practices and standards.
- Assign roles.
- Set timelines.
- When your team has approved the plan, implement it, then refine and adjust it as needed.
- Consider setting regular benchmarks for additional evaluations and refinements as needed.



Learning to Communicate at the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf. Episcopal Relief & Development partners with the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, an institution of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.