

Welcome to your play church!

It is very special and has been made just for you. Come and play with everything you find here: look at the colours, try on the robes, hold the shiny chalice, light a candle, smell the polished wood, decorate the altar. Explore it all and invite your friends to come and play with you.



Lots of churches look like this play church and lots look different. What can you see in the church around you? What looks the same? What looks different?

You will find things in this play church that you can see being used in a church service. How many candles are there? What colours can you see? You can ask all these questions and more, such as 'What happens in Holy Communion?' and 'How is a baby baptised?' You can even wonder, 'What is Church?'

In church we get together to worship God. We pray, sing, read the Bible and share a special meal because each of us belongs to God. Worshipping God is what we are made for. This Bible verse tells us what worship was like in the very beginning, when the world began:



I was like a child by His side.
I was playing every day,
enjoying His presence all the time,
enjoying the whole world,
and delighted with all its people.
(Proverbs 8:30-31)

In church, we share a special time and place together to delight in all that God has made. As children, you can be yourselves: play and delight in everyone and everything you see, including this play church. Your play can remind the adults around you what it means to delight like a child in God's presence, and this is really important for the whole Church.

The Church is a great big family: look around you at all your brothers and sisters! All these people are the Church - and so are all the Christians that there ever were and ever will be, anywhere on earth.

The Church is also like a living body. Jesus is the head and we are his arms and hands and legs and feet. We have lots of work to do, not just on Sundays but every day of our lives: we need to love other people, help them and explore with them the truth about God, just as Jesus did when he lived on earth.



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me" and the Church welcomes you in his name. While you are here, enjoy this play church: play, explore and wonder about worship. Most of all, wonder about God and his amazing family that reaches across time and space.

Love from the Diocese of Edinburgh x