

Step 1 – Communicate the need for the ministry.

Heighten the awareness of the First Contact ministry to church members and adult Sunday School members through church newsletters and web-site information.

Consistently update the ministry to adult Sunday School classes and infant and one year old departments. These areas will reap the benefits by the First Contact ministry.

Step 2 – Enlist a core group of people to visit prospects. (for the Director of First Contact)

Enlist a core group of people who will visit prospects. Each volunteer visitor is enlisted to visit one family. They will be free to minister the family and bring them into the fellowship of the church. These volunteer visitors may be, young adult couples, adults active in the outreach ministry of the church and senior adults who have a love for young families.

Step 3 – Develop a detailed plan for ongoing prospect discovery.

Develop a detailed plan for ongoing prospect discovery and ministry. Some suggestions are . . .

VBS prospects
LifeWay Prospect Services
Expectant Parent classes
Weekday programs
Families who visit on holidays

Birth announcements in the newspaper or signs found in new parents' yards.

Step 4 – Build relationships.

Cultivating and building relationships with prospects may include these opportunities. . .

Bible Studies for couples (beyond Sunday School)
Young Adult Fellowships

Introducing the mom and dad to other couples who have similar interests

Invite them to your home for a meal or coffee

Prepare a meal for the family when the baby and mom come home

Volunteer to stay with the siblings when the baby is born

Prepare an inexpensive gift for the new baby and for their
sibling

Provide books or brochures that may help a mom with questions about the new baby

Step 5 – Develop a ministry plan.

Meet on a regular basis to develop a ministry plan for each prospect family.

Encourage and help

volunteer visitors know the best way to minister to their prospect family.

Provide materials, resources, and inexpensive gifts for the newborn and other siblings.

Include copies of *BabyLife* and *ParentLife* magazines

Provide devotion materials like *Stand Firm* and *Journey* magazines

Step 6 – Train volunteer visitors to make contacts

Train volunteer visitors to make visits. Encourage them to prepare for the home visit by calling ahead and making an appointment. Enlist someone to teach them to share the gospel with a family.

Keep in touch with volunteer visitors while they are ministering to families to make sure they have what they need and encourage their efforts.

Step 7 – Prepare a budget

Prepare a budget for the Preschool Division Director that might include the following: resource and visitation supplies, outreach event publicity, new parent, fellowships, new parent dedication, and parenting classes. Plan for gift ideas, quarterly parent newsletters from your church, *ParentLife*, *BabyLife*, and *HomeLife*.

Include cost for a New Baby Bible, yard signs from your church, baby birth

announcements that are laminated, flowers for worship service baby announcements, child development books, videos, and Christian parenting books for your church library (these are share in home visits).

Step 8 – Prepare a calendar

Prepare a calendar that includes special events and ongoing events for young families.

Parent dedication services

Prospect discovery event

Parent fellowships

Parent night out

Family play days

Parent Library emphasis week

Mother's/Father's Day

