

Tips for a fun and successful Totus Tuus

PLEASE COMPLETE THE ATTACHED EVALUATION AND
RETURN TO THE PARISH BY THE START OF TOTUS TUUS.

- ★ You are here to help the children who have registered for Totus Tuus. Please do your best to help them feel comfortable, have a good time and enjoy the experience. The children will look to you for following along, so participation by you is a must.
- ★ Leave all cell phones, iPods, etc. at home, in your car, or at the registration table in the Gathering Space.
- ★ Please arrive by 8:30 am each morning and plan to stay until all your group members have been picked up (about 2:40 pm). No child should have to wait for his or her leader to arrive in the morning. You need to be here to greet them when they arrive.
- ★ Keep your group involved at all times. The children need to be supervised by you constantly, and especially during snack-time, lunchtime and recess.
- ★ A picnic is scheduled for Wednesday night and all volunteers, participants and their families are invited.

We appreciate your willingness to assist the Totus Tuus team! There is no way a program like this can survive without your help. Thanks!

Safety and First Aid Reminders...

- ★ The first rule of safety is BE AWARE!
- ★ Knowing where your entire group is at all times is the best way to prevent accidents.
- ★ Some activities will require your group to go outside, and cars may be driving through the parking lot. Be sure that you model safety by looking both ways when walking to the game area.
- ★ The playground will be used around lunchtime but that is all. Please make sure your group stays safe while using the playground.
- ★ In the event of fire or severe weather, you must remain calm and take charge of your group to get them quickly and safely where they need to be.
- ★ Be aware of the potential hazards of each activity.
- ★ Immediately stop activity that is dangerous to a child or others near them.
- ★ Avoid giving piggyback rides, carrying children, or swinging children around.
- ★ Children are NOT to run or shout in the building. Remember this is still Holy Ground. They should remain respectful at all times.
- ★ Take frequent water and bathroom breaks. Remember, if a child needs to use the restroom, a leader has to accompany them to the restroom and wait in the hallway. If the child needs assistance, another adult must be present. Same gender required.
- ★ For children who are not behaving, not listening or just maybe having a bad day, please bring them to the Gathering Space or front office. They will rejoin your group after some time away.

- ★ Report even minor injuries to a staff member.
 - ★ A first aid kit will be at the registration table in the gathering space.
 - ★ If someone is seriously hurt – or if you're not sure how badly they are hurt – do not move them. Remain calm as you take in the situation. Stay with the injured person, help them to relax as much as possible as you send someone to go for help.
 - ★ Be aware of your own personal safety when working with children.
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Ideas to try with your Group before we begin in the morning or during recess...

- ★ "Octopus Knot" – Gather your Crew in a circle and have everyone grab two hands. There are two rules: you can't hold hands with either person next to you, and you can't hold both hands of the same person. Now, try to untangle your Crew without letting go of anyone's hands.
- ★ Play Rock, Paper, Scissors with your group.
- ★ Take an extra minute to say a prayer using one of the following ideas:
 - ★ Everyone say one thing they are thankful for today.
 - ★ Everyone one person they want to pray for
 - ★ Write a list of prayers and carry it with you during the day.
- ★ Challenge your group to line up in order of height or birthday without talking.
- ★ Play a game of "Duck, Duck, Grey Duck"

- ★ See if your group can come up with its own cheer or theme song.
- ★ Try to change common commercial jingles to be about Jesus or God.
- ★ Ask your Group to share any of the following...
 - ★ What has been your favorite part of the day?
 - ★ What have you learned today?
 - ★ What are you looking forward to doing tomorrow?
 - ★ What will you tell your mom or dad when you get home?
- ★ Ask your Group to tell you stories or experiences they have had with flying, traveling, etc. – it's a good way to get to know the children in your Group. Try this question: If you could fly anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go?
- ★ Play "Charades" – see how many animals you can imitate and how many your Group can guess.
- ★ Play "Make 'em Laugh" – Sit in a tight circle and choose one person to be "it." Everyone then makes a straight face, while the person who is "it" tries to make everyone smile or laugh. The last person to have a straight face is then "it" for the next round.
- ★ Older kids might be able to this one: Everyone starts out by saying, "I'm going on a trip, and I'm bringing _____" (they have to name something to do with the sea that begins with the same letter as their first name." An extra challenge is to remember what everyone has said.
- ★ Ask children about their pets, family, school, teachers, friends, favorite foods, cartoons, Disney movies, etc.
- ★ Tell silly "knock knock" jokes.