

## Children's Ministry

**"...In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish... Matthes 18:14**

During the course of 2016 there were a number of initiatives that were encouraging and helped advance the work of children's ministry in the St-Lawrence District. The goal is to promote and foster children's ministry in our churches, so that the next generation of members would have a strong foundation in their faith. This year the following projects were developed...

1. **Discipled Child** - We are currently in the last phases of developing a grid that would provide parents and Sunday School teachers with a clear direction of what each child should know and be able to grasp in terms of their personal spiritual development. These benchmarks will help us as we look at curriculum and literature as we invest in our children.
2. **Plan to Protect** - we maintain ongoing support to encourage and train churches in their development of policies to ensure that they are in line with the best practices for the protection of our children, youth and volunteers.
3. **Training** - through a partnership with **CEF and Awana** we encourage the churches in the district to send all their volunteers to one of the five conferences that are offered each Fall across Quebec. These conferences offer the very best tools and resources for teaching children. The theme for this year is **Perspective**. Plan to send your teachers and volunteers to this event!
4. **Refugee Project** - the National Committee for Children's Ministry developed a National Project to help churches raise awareness and money for the Refugee Sponsorship Projects that a number of our Alliance Churches participated with to address the alarming number of Syrian Refugees. While only a small number of churches across Canada participated in the national children's project, at L'Oasis we were able to raise money and awareness about the plight of refugees entering Canada!
5. **Special Needs** - a growing number of children in our churches face challenges due to learning disabilities, autism or Attention Deficit Disorder. These children come into our programs with special needs that we need to address while presenting the gospel in a means that they can understand. Our goal to to provide resources for churches as they meet the needs of special children within their ministries.