

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Certificate Training Program



CANADIAN BAPTISTS OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC

We know that it is crucial to invest in our churches by responding to the need of the ongoing formation and development of our leaders. We know that it is especially critical to invest in the leaders who are entrusted by our churches to reach and engage this next generation and their families with the person and message of Jesus. We know from Jesus that maximizing the gifts in our leaders is simply good stewardship.

The needs have faces, and these faces bear the light of Christ to countless children and families in our churches. These faces are the faces of our tremendously gifted leaders. We know that investing in these leaders means offering them just the training and equipping they urgently need but often lack. With just the right training and equipping they can much better and more faithfully respond to the very real challenges and call of the gospel opportunities in the places God has called them to serve.

To respond to this, CBOQ Next Generation Ministries launched the Children and Family Ministry Training Certificate Program for a cohort group of 10 selected participants for a 12-month term.

This highly practical program will span the period of 12 months in which the participants will receive one 4-day Retreat, one on-site 2-day training, one online synchronous/asynchronous 3-day training, access to the [Toronto Children's Ministry Conference](#) and five online learning experiences. Each module will be facilitated by CBOQ Next Generation staff along with invited professors and ministry leaders in children and family ministry. Participants will also complete the online [Horizons Children's Ministry Course](#).

Each participant will receive three one-on-one coaching sessions, mentoring from veteran children and family ministry practitioners, a training manual, be given access to children and family ministry resources and have an opportunity to network with other ministry leaders through their cohort experience.

WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL THIS TRAINING MAKE?

Imagine what God could do in and through you, your leadership and the ministry you are called to lead through the investment of a 12-month intense mentoring, discipleship and training program. The CFMTCP brings together practical classroom studies, mentoring from veteran children and family ministry leaders and the forging of close and trusted friendships with ministry peers.

The aim of this program is that each participant will develop a theological and biblical understanding and approach to effective children and family ministry that will include a thoughtful, articulated philosophy of ministry accompanied with the practical resources and framework to engage in faith formation with our children and families.

WHO IS THIS TRAINING DESIGNED FOR?

This program is for ministry leaders who are currently leading the children and family ministry (ex. Children's Pastors, Children's Ministry Directors, Associates, etc.) in their local church context but who may have never completed a children's ministry degree. A ministry leader applying for this program should be someone with a desire for mentoring as well as someone who is willing to invest into a strong interactive educational learning environment to strengthen their knowledge and practical implementation of effective children and family ministry.

WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES?

Students completing the CBOQ – Children and Family Ministry Training Certificate Program will:

- be able to discuss, develop and articulate their **ministry plan & philosophy of children's ministry** that are both biblically formulated, developmentally appropriate, and culturally competent.
- Possess a foundational understanding of **Generation Alpha, child development and children's spirituality** necessary to communicate and minister to today's children.
- Be equipped with resources in **developing effective ways to equip parents as primary faith influencers.**
- be equipped with resources in **developing healthy relationships with senior pastors, board members and parents.**
- understand the importance of effective **communication, management and administrative skills** necessary for effectiveness in children and family ministry.
- Be able to navigate and consider **digital and other approaches to family faith formation, including intergenerational ministry.**
- Be equipped with **new ideas, resources, templates.**

WHAT WILL EACH PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCE?

ON-SITE LEARNING EXPERIENCES: There will be 6 days of onsite learning that will involve group work, lecturing, discussion and debrief. The first 4 days will include the CBOQ Next Gen Pastor's Retreat. The final 2 days will focus on building a children and family ministry strategic plan and your own personal leadership development.

ONLINE LEARNING: Through 5 online 2-hour meetings you will experience teaching, mentoring and support from leading experts, professors and practitioners in children and family ministry. We begin with an online learning experience over the course of 3 days that will include portions of synchronous learning modules along with asynchronous learning through a Google classroom.

COACHING SESSIONS: You will receive three one-on-one, 1-hour coaching sessions aimed as follow up to on-site learning experiences, leadership challenges, assessment process as well as for spiritual care and personal development.

PRACTICAL READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS: There will be expected readings to be completed before as well as assignments that will be shared within the learning environment with your peers.

TRAINING COST: \$450 (CBOQ invests \$300/participant)

PROGRAM VALUE IS OVER \$4000!

Included in Program Cost:

- Classroom resources, workbook, some books, and facilitation from CBOQ Next Gen Staff
- Learning from key Canadian leaders in children and family ministry
- Full accommodations and food for Experience #2, food for Experience #3
- Full access to Toronto Children's Ministry Conference 2025
- Full access to 2 additional digital learning experiences
- \$100 Discount for CBOQ Assembly 2026
- Access to the Horizons Children's Ministry Course

Additional Costs:

- All travel is the responsibility of each participant.
- Accommodations are not included for Experience #3
- Additional Required books (TBD)

TRAINING COURSE SCHEDULE (to be confirmed)

- ***Synchronous/Asynchronous Learning Experience #1*** ***June 16 –18 2025***
 - Welcome & Intro to Program
 - Challenges of children and family ministry in the Canadian Culture
 - Theology of the Child
 - Developing a Philosophy of Children and Family Ministry
 - Nuts and Bolts of Children’s Ministry
 - Major themes in Sunday School/Culture/History
 - Understanding Today’s Canadian Family Culture
 - Understanding & Ministering to Generation Alpha
 - Child Development Theories
 - Introduction to Horizons Children’s Ministry Course

- ***Retreat Learning Experience #2 @ Camp Kwasind*** ***October 6-9 2025***
 - Includes Next Gen Pastor’s Retreat (content theme to tba)
 - Children’s Spirituality
 - Parent Equipping: Effective Engagement and Communication
 - Developing effective evaluation
 - Vision, Strategy, Leadership Development
 - Soul Care and Creating Circles of Support

- ***Toronto Children’s Ministry Conference*** (optional) ***November 1 2025***
 - Includes 4 workshops and Plenary Session and the digital package

- ***Online Learning Session #1*** ***November 2025***
 - Biblical Justice and Children’s Ministry

- ***Online Learning Session #2*** ***January 2026***
 - Recruiting, Developing, Training & Empowering Volunteer Leadership

- ***Online Learning Session #3*** ***February 2026***
 - Digital Faith Formation

- **Online Learning Session #4** **March 2026**
 - Accessibility and Diversity (includes special needs, learning differences, racial issues)

- **Online Learning Session #5** **April 2026**
 - Effective Storytelling and Discovering the Biblical Metanarrative

- **On Site Learning Experience #3 @ CBOQ Office** **May 2026**
 - Fostering, Developing and Gaining Influence through key relationships including board members, senior pastors, and parents
 - Ongoing Leadership Development
 - Children’s Ministry Handbook: getting practical with ministry resources including budgeting, administration, risk management, forms, meeting management, calendaring, evaluation etc.
 - Celebration Gathering

- **Coaching with Next Generation Staff Team September 2025; January 2026 and April 2026**
- **Recognition of completion at CBOQ Assembly, June 2026**

Children and Family Ministry Certificate Training Program

APPLICATION PROCESS

DUE: APRIL 30, 2025

ELIGIBILITY

We seek ministry leaders who are currently leading the children and family ministry in their local church context and are academically and emotionally prepared for a strong educational environment in order to strengthen their knowledge and skills in children and family ministry. You must be endorsed and recommended by your church. We reserve the right to limit admission for any reason to ensure the quality of the certification program.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

1. Review this information package. (Any questions, email Tanya Yuen tyuen@baptist.ca.)
2. Complete the application at cboqkids.ca/kidmincert by April 30, 2025.
3. You will receive a decision by May 15, 2025. To confirm enrollment in the Children and Family Ministry Training Certificate Program after acceptance, send full payment by May 30, 2025. There is limited enrollment.
4. Ensure your Church Leadership endorses and supports you in taking this certificate program.

IMPORTANT NOTE

This Children and Family Ministry Certificate Program is facilitated by CBOQ Next Generation Ministries. If you are taking this program, you will not receive academic credit, although you will receive certification from CBOQ after effective completion of the program. Additionally, you will be enrolled in the online Horizons Children's Ministry Course and will receive certification for completion of that course.