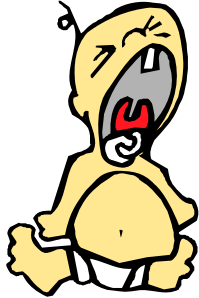


# Cry-Room vs Quieting-Space



Cry rooms are a very short part of the Church's history. They are a product of the technological age. They depend on the existence of a sound system extended to a room that has sound deadening materials to prevent sounds from inside the room effecting the nave. Some of these rooms are large enough for several families, and are treated as additional seating. This arrangement separates those in the room from the others who assembled to worship, when all that is really needed is a temporary separation until the child is settled.

A quieting space, on the other hand, has always been part of the Church. Even in the earliest churches, there was always the possibility to take a disrupting child out of the main worshiping space and to return after the child has been settled. This may have meant that they would have to either go to the vestibule of the church or even outside.

Today a quieting space does not have to be outside the church or even be the gathering space. This space still needs to have access to the sounds of the worshiping community and should still have the sound deadening materials used in its construction. However, it should NOT be treated as alternative seating. It could be a place with a changing table and or a rocker. A temporary place where the child can be quieted and then return to continue to be part of the assembly.



Many new churches are being designed with nurseries where small children could spend their mass time with competent personnel. The age of the children that use a nursery depend on the competency of the personnel hired to oversee the nursery and on the needs of the parents. The children should use the nursery only to the age that their parents can comfortably integrate them into the assembly. At baptism we welcome our children as members of Christ's body. We should continue to welcome them as part of our weekly celebrations so that they truly grow in the faith we celebrate and want to hand on to them.

