Tips for Handling Children in the Audience

Sometimes families have small children and cannot find or afford child care in order to attend a discussion or presentation. As a result, there may be small children present as well. If a person or organization is hosting you for a presentation, ask if children will be present. If your organization is hosting an educational event, ask participants if they will be bringing children with them.

Below are a few tips for handling children in the audience:

- You or your host might be able to identify someone in the community that can occupy children with activities, reading or games during the presentation. Be sure to check with your organization’s policies about providing childcare and any background checks that a person watching children needs to have before providing childcare services.

- If no one is available to lead children in other activities, and depending on the age of the children you can:
  - Bring crayons and paper or coloring books to keep children occupied so that their parents can listen to your presentation.
  - Bring a simple craft project that children can do on their own.
  - Bring games that children can play on their own.
  - If there is a mix of older children and younger children, and depending on the size of the group, the older children may be able to lead younger ones in an activity or game.