



What is MOMSnext?

MOMSnext is a ministry to mothers of school-age kids. It is a new arm of MOPS International which has been a trusted resource for equipping churches to reach out to families in their communities for more than thirty-five years. A MOMSnext group is an open, accepting place for all mothers of school-age kids to come, just as they are, to experience authentic community, personal growth, practical help and spiritual hope.

What does a MOMSnext group look like?

- MOMSnext groups can vary in size but are often smaller, more intimate groups.
- MOMSnext groups often attract moms who desire to discuss core parenting issues.
- Some moms who join MOMSnext were never part of MOPS.
- MOMSnext groups can meet as often as they like with some meeting twice a month and others meeting only once a month, some meet during the day and others meet at night.
- Some MOMSnext groups partner with existing MOPS groups to alleviate the burden of childcare. Some even share leadership meetings.
- Most MOMSnext groups alternate between hearing a speaker and teaching from a curriculum.

Note: each MOMSnext group may differ in specifics, but every MOMSnext group includes:

- A value on mothering in the school years
- Leadership development
- Relational evangelism
- Connection to a local church
- Service

Why should I join MOMSnext?

- MOMSnext is relationally relevant. Topics meet the specific and demanding needs of the school-age moms in each group.
- MOMSnext may cost less because of limited childcare needs and the potential to partner with a classic MOPS group.
- MOMSnext is focused on outreach and bringing new families to church.
- Your MOMSnext group will be designed around the needs of moms in your community.
- The MOMSnext Forums on MOPS.org and MOPSLeaders.org allow moms and leaders to gain information and ideas from other MOMSnext moms and groups.
- MOMSnext is a next step for many MOPS moms who outgrow preschool topics, but desire to continue being encouraged, equipped and developed.

What topics can MOMSnext cover?

Any topics that address the needs of the moms in your MOMSnext group including:

- Character development
- Homework
- Money management for children
- Work choices
- Balancing family activities
- Manners and how to raise grateful children
- School choices
- Aging
- Navigating the school system
- Sex education and puberty
- Bullying and choosing friends
- Time management
- Raising accountable kids and internet safety
- Multi-intelligences of children (*How am I Smart* by Kathy Koch)
- Family time and dinners



MOMSnext Frequently Asked Questions

What is MOMSnext?

MOMSnext is a group experience designed to encourage, equip and develop mothers of school-age kids. This is a new ministry arm of MOPS International extending the current mission statement to reach more mothers and their families for Christ. Groups will provide relevant community for mothers of school-age kids while developing leaders and sharing the hope of Christ with moms who attend.

Who attends a MOMSnext group?

Every mother of school-age kids is welcome to a MOMSnext group. Most groups will focus on a target age range i.e. elementary years, so moms may feel some groups to be more relevant to their current mothering stage than others. With the likelihood that many alumni will participate in these groups, MOMSnext leaders need to be highly mindful that groups are open to NEW moms, and are welcoming to NEW moms.

Who will lead a MOMSnext group?

Mothers of school-age kids will lead the group with support of their local Chartering Ministry. All leaders must be able to sign the MOPS International Faith Position Statement to ensure unity on the leadership team. Chartering Ministries may place other requirements on leaders if desired. Every MOMSnext group is encouraged to have a coordinator and at least one MOMSnext Mentor, a mother past the school-age years of mothering to offer perspective and encouragement. Other than the Mentor, all leaders should be mothers of school-age children.

What are the requirements for a MOMSnext group?

Every MOMSnext group should reflect the community in which it is taking place. For this reason schedules and content of meetings will vary from group to group. There are four elements that will be required of every MOMSnext group. They are:

- Value on mothering during the school years
- Leadership development
- Lifestyle evangelism
- Connection to a Chartering Ministry
- Service (highly recommended, though not required)

Will we use the MOPS International annual theme?

MOPS International encourages groups to use the annual theme. Not only does it provide some guidance for planning the year, it could allow for resource sharing with a local MOPS group (i.e. table decorations, group curriculum, etc).

Where and when should my group meet?

Your group will likely look different than a group on the other side of the country or even on the other side of your city. Why? Because different moms have different needs. This is the time to be creative, to

try new things, in order to reach new. Think of what would draw moms from *your* community to a mothering group. Also consider what would keep them away. Build your group to most effectively reach out to mothers who do not know Jesus' love. Meet their felt needs, their relational needs, for an effective ministry.

What about home school moms?

All mothers of school-age children are welcome at MOMSnext regardless of their schooling approach. Like MOPS groups, MOMSnext groups will focus on mothering as the connecting factor. School related issues will certainly come up and leaders will need to be sensitive to making topics and discussions broad enough to include all schooling options. Childcare needs may be affected by home schooled kids if meetings are held on weekdays.

What kind of support will MOMSnext groups and leaders receive from MOPS International?

Ministry Service Representatives and MOMSnext Field Leaders are available to answer questions and offer general support to MOMSnext leaders. An electronic guidebook with specific MOMSnext information will be available online. MOMSnext leaders will also have the opportunity to attend training events like the MOPS International Convention and the MOPS Leadership Summit. Leaders will have access to all MOPS leadership materials including the Leaders' website, the MOMSnext forum, leadership curriculums and *Connections* magazine.

Is a mom already registered for the MOPS International Membership, required to also register for the MOMSnext Membership?

A woman will not be required to register for the MOMSnext Membership if she holds a current MOPS International Membership. However, she will not receive the MOMSnext specific benefits, including the MOMSnext E-zine, which may impact her ability to participate in group discussions.



MOMSNEXT SURVEY 2011

NAME:

SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN AND THEIR AGES:

IF YOU ALSO HAVE PRESCHOOL AGE CHILDREN- WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN BEING IN BOTH MOPS AND MOMSNEXT?

WOULD YOU PREFER TO MEET DURING THE DAY OR IN THE EVENING?

DO YOU HAVE A DAY OF THE WEEK PREFERENCE?

WOULD YOU NEED CHILDCARE TO ATTEND MOMSNEXT?

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF MOMSNEXT LEADERSHIP? IF SO IN WHAT CAPACITY?

Return Survey to Laurie Bossman (10545 Chip Dr Evansville,IN 47725). You can contact me at laurie_b75@yahoo.com or 867-3988 with any questions.