The bulk of this pack is made up of pdf files made available to SU Scotland by SU Australia to offer to our primary group leaders. These first four pages are a poorer quality scan from the original A4 book published by SU but now out of print.

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What's a SUPA kids club?

Throughout the world, every week kids of varying ages meet with leaders to encounter Jesus through the Bible and through relationship with each other. In clubs like these, many of the kids have no contact with churches and their club is the only regular opportunity they have to explore the Christian faith.

In Australia many primary schools have SUPA clubs (Scripture Union Primary Clubs), which exist to introduce young people to Jesus, the Bible and the local church. In these clubs leaders and kids learn about Jesus together through the Bible, prayer and relationships.

If you run a SUPA Club or another kids club with the same aims, JAFFA is for you. The programs are written by experienced children's ministry coordinators who know and love primary aged kids and work closely with kid's club leaders.

This book is part of a 3 volume series, JAFFA 1,2 and 3, which form a three year syllabus. Each volume contains 32 programs to cover a year, leaving some spare weeks for seasonal or special programs.

Each program has 3 sections (which can be 5 or 10 minutes in length) and a snappy finish. There are plenty of activities included for groups with more time.

Section 1: **Open the pack** – Physical activities to introduce the theme and involve everyone and so create an atmosphere that communicates, 'It's great to be here!'

Section 2: **Dig in** – Interacting with the truth from the Bible in a way that pushes thinking and encourages exploration.

Section 3: **Chew on it** – Involves thinking about how the Bible truth applies to us and encourages some sort of a response

Because it's impossible to develop a top program with these elements that caters effectively for ages 5-12, each section usually has two suggested activities

one for the 9-11 year old age group

the other either for 5-8 year olds

or mixed ages.

This will allow you to choose activities to suit your group.

We hope you have fun with JAFFA 1 and that through it, you and your group get to know Jesus better.

Best practice in Children's ministry

So you're running an effective kids club? *That's great!*

You've built up a good rapport with your group and feel you're really getting somewhere. The kids are exploring the Bible and finding out about Jesus for themselves. They're asking questions and telling others what a good time they have each week.

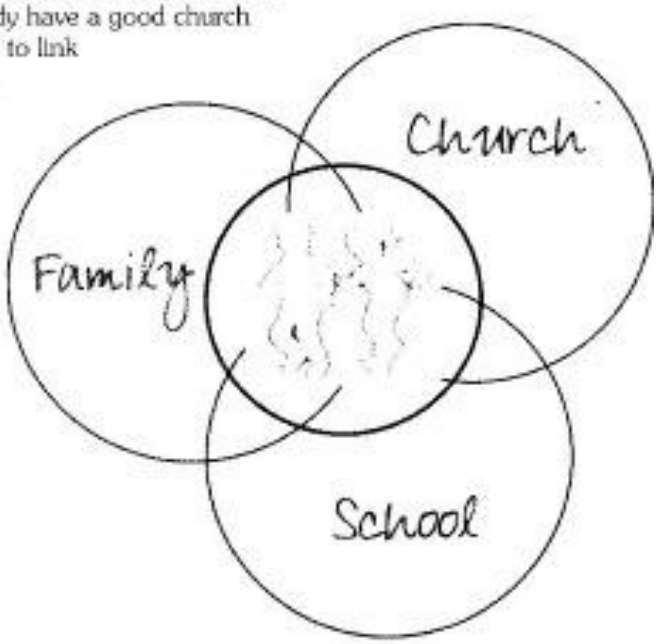
But important as your relationship is with the kids in your club, there are other important relationships to consider as well.

FAMILY Each child is part of a family and you need to consider that family in what you do. Take every opportunity to be inclusive of other family members. Even though they sometimes act as though they are independent, primary school children are still influenced greatly by their parents. There are ideas for organizing a family event on page 8.

SCHOOL If yours is a school club, you and the club have to fit comfortably with the school. It's worth putting in the effort to get to know the office staff and teachers. Keep them informed about what you are doing, even if they don't seem very interested.

CHURCH No matter how good your program is, it will be better with the support and involvement of other Christians. The church is God's plan for people to be nurtured in the faith, however, unfortunately not all churches are child-friendly. You may need to be an advocate, approaching local churches to ask what they can do to include kids from your club. Don't think it's too hard. Churches who are prepared to rethink their agendas for those outside, usually benefit as much as those they seek to include. Other churches may already have a good church kids program but not realise that you would like to link your kids into it. If you are a school parachurch group, meet with your local ministers and explain what you are trying to do for the kids in your area. Ask for their support. It takes extra effort, but it's worth it.

important relationships...

We suggest you run one activity a term to help your group make these connections with Family, Church and School. You can start with these:

- A SUPA JAFFA DO to run for your school (Page 6)
- A family bush BBQ (Page 8)
- A church visit and debrief (Page 10)