“Just as with adults, the spiritual life of baptised children is enriched by the receiving of Holy Communion and their sense of belonging is affirmed and encouraged. This has required churches to engage with the sacrament in new and different ways, to the enrichment of children and adults alike, as they journey in faith together.”

Rowan Williams Archbishop of Canterbury
There are many resources which can be used both with adult leaders and with children of different ages. Listed below is just a sample. Please contact the Diocesan Resource Centre for help or more information – and do share your own resource material!

Ready to Share One Bread
By Nick Harding and Sandra Millar
Published by SPCK

*Ready to Share One Bread* is a comprehensive ‘one-stop shop’ for all those who would like to explore this issue with their church. It also includes an easy to run, two session preparation programme for all the family.

The Communion Cube
By Diana Murrie and Margaret Withers
Published by The National Society/Church House Publishing

This delightful full-colour, robust cube is designed for children between 4 and 8 years old and can be used during the service as a fun way of taking children through the service.

Common Worship I Belong –
Leader’s Guide
Children’s Book
Parents Guide
By Aileen Urquhart, Adapted and edited by Revd. Jill Talbot-Ponsonby
Published by Redemptorist Publications

During each of the 11 sessions the children explore a theme connected with the Eucharist. They start by looking at their ordinary experiences of the theme and then go on to think about the theme in Scripture, and in the Church. Finally, they will look again at everyday experiences, and hopefully discover how the Eucharist is about real life.

Each section of the Leader’s Guide carries full-colour links to every page of the children’s book and includes sessions for parents.
I can join in Common Worship – A children’s Communion book

Devised and designed by Tony Kershaw
Published by SPCK
This book is designed for children of reading age. The Common Worship Communion service is laid out in such a way that children can join in with prayers and responses. Illustrations and brief explanations of the service show what is going on at each point of the service, allowing children to worship God with the whole congregation.

The Picnic – Teddy Horsley goes to Communion

By Leslie J. Francis and Nicola M. Slee
Published by Christian Education
This is one of a series of books, The Teddy Horsley and Betsy Bear stories, written for 3 to 6 year olds, which uses everyday experiences of the two bears to relate to important events and concepts in the Christian Faith. The Picnic helps children engage with Holy Communion through the experience of the bears.

Come and Join the Celebration – A resource book to help adults and children experience Holy Communion together.

By John Muir and Betty Pedley
Published by The National Society/Church House Publishing
This book provides:
- guidance on how to help children understand the liturgy and the structure of Order One (Common Worship)
- activities related to the service of Holy Communion to use in church with 2 – 6 year olds, resource sheets for 7 – 11 year olds and ideas for additional uses, including preparation for receiving Holy Communion before Confirmation, mid-week groups and workshops, away days and school eucharists.

Welcome to the Lord’s Table – Preparing children for Holy Communion

By Margaret Withers
Published by BRF
The introductory chapters explore the background to the question of preparing young children for Holy Communion and gives guidance on preparing the congregation, training leaders and involving the family. It comprises ten flexible teaching units plus four punctuation points to mark the journey.
There is an activity book also available.
The Lord is here – An illustrated Communion book for Common Worship

Arranged by Leslie J. Francis
Published by Kevin Mayhew

This picture book is designed as an aid to parents who wish their children to feel at home at church, and to teachers and clergy who wish to teach about the communion service. The illustrations have been chosen to provide a firm link between the worship of the church and the experiences and way of thinking characteristic of 4 to 8 year olds. This book can be used in conjunction with ‘His Spirit is With Us’

His Spirit is with us – A project-based programme on Communion

By Leslie J. Francis and Diane Drayson
Published by Kevin Mayhew

This is an innovative programme of education based on the communion service and designed to support the illustrated communion book The Lord is Here! It is ideal for churches wanting to nurture adults and children within the richness of the liturgy.

Thirty-one Eucharistic themes are developed with ideas for:

- children’s workshops, Sunday schools and church schools
- all-age projects and intergenerational learning
- all ages celebrating eucharist together.

Each theme is supported by copyright-free photocopiable materials.

Children and Holy Communion – Preparing to welcome children at Holy Communion

By Diana Murrie and Steve Pearce
Published by Kevin Mayhew

This book is divided into two parts. Part one contains useful information for parishes considering whether to admit children to Communion. It includes material on the historical background and various questions and anxieties members of the congregation may have.

Part two is a six week preparation course for children, which includes material which can be photocopied.

My Communion Book – A guide to Holy Communion

By Diana Murrie
Published by The National Society/Church House Publishing

This book is primarily aimed at 4 to 8 year olds. It can be used initially as a sharing book, adult and child reading together, but children may use it at times on their own. Taking the child through the service, the book explains key words and asks questions that relate directly to the child, helping them to engage with the service of Holy Communion in a fun way.