

The following guidelines have been developed to enable us to care the children of our church in a loving, responsible manner. The unique needs and abilities of infants and toddlers have been considered in setting these guidelines.

Nursery Care Policy

Children aged birth-3 will be cared for in the nursery during Sunday morning worship, Sunday school, and Wednesday evening small groups.

Unless parents volunteering so choose, no older siblings or other children/young people should be in the nursery.

Volunteers for the nursery must be middle school age or older. Student volunteers must always be under the supervision of at least one adult.

Two volunteers will be assigned to the Sunday morning worship service. They should arrive no later than ten minutes before service. If volunteers are unable to be present, the nursery director is responsible for procuring alternate care.

Two volunteers should always be present during regular nursery care hours. For everyone's protection, it is policy that no single volunteer be in the nursery with only one child (unless family).

Nursery Care Procedures

First-time and infrequent visitors should complete a Childcare Information Sheet for their child(ren).

Regular visitors should complete a Childcare Information Sheet for each child in the nursery. This paperwork will be confidentially kept on file for reference. It is important we know parents' and children's names, allergies and special needs.

The individual picking up the child(ren) from the nursery should be a parent/guardian and not a sibling, unless special instructions have been left with the staff.

Parents are expected to be on the church premises or at church-sponsored gatherings while their child(ren) are in the nursery.

Parents should bring any items their child(ren) may need. All items should be clearly marked. It is preferred that no toys be brought from home.

The nursery contains age-appropriate toys, books and activity materials which will be cleaned regularly.

Nursery Health

Children will be assisted as needed with toileting, hand washing, etc. Caregivers will wash their hands after assisting children with toileting and before and after diapering. Each child will have his/her diaper checked and changed as needed (minimum once per child).

Children with signs of illness or infection will not be allowed to stay in the nursery. This includes fever, cough, excessive runny nose, and diarrhea.

Discipline will be handled in a loving, consistent manner. After a first verbal warning, short time-outs will be given.

The nursery will provide a light snack for Sunday worship, Sunday school and/or Wednesday night activities. It is recommended snacks not be brought from home. If a parent would like to provide snacks for all the children, please speak with the nursery director.

Parents are responsible for the snack of their child(ren) when attending other church-sponsored activities.

Children's hands will be sanitized before eating snacks.

Nursery Behavior Guidelines

While recognizing toddlers need assistance in learning to share and interact, aggressive behavior toward others will not be tolerated (i.e. biting or repetitive hitting).

If children are bullying or hurting others and do not respond to firm, loving discipline, parents may be summoned to remove them from the nursery.

Any concerns about the nursery program should be immediately brought to the attention of the Nursery Director, a Nursery Team member, or the Children's Ministries Coordinator.

Thank you for your partnership with the nursery and children's ministry teams in ensuring this ministry for our youngest children runs smoothly.

In Christ's Service,

Nursery Director: Abby Montgomery Children's Ministries Coordinator: Amanda Trent