



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

GRACE KIDS PHILOSOPHY

Our children's ministry exists to serve parents by coming alongside them in their effort to teach children about biblical truth, God, and the Gospel and to serve children by providing a safe and enjoyable environment where God's Word is taught and Christ is exalted.

STRUCTURE

The children's ministry at Grace Bible Church is a safe, loving, & structured environment for your child from 2 years old - 6th grade.

OUR MINISTRY

- Children's ministry occurs every Sunday morning.
- Children are divided into separate classrooms based on age.
- Sunday morning is divided into two ministry hours that run parallel to our Worship Service & Fellowship Groups.
 - **First Hour offers classes for 2-5 year olds.**
 - **Second Hour offers classes for 2 year olds - 6th grade.**
- A Grace Kids activity sheet and colored pencils are available in the lobby for children participating in the Worship Service to use as a tool as they listen to the teaching from God's Word.
- A separate team of volunteers is responsible for the Worship Service and Fellowship Group hours on a Sunday morning.

OUR CLASSROOM

Each classroom utilizes the following elements:

- Bible Lesson

Each age appropriate lesson is from the curriculum *Generations of Grace* or *Children Desiring God*. The curriculum takes the child from Genesis to Revelation, hitting the main events of God's redemptive story. It is biblically driven, God-centered, Christ exalting, and Gospel saturated.

The curriculum is structured for age appropriate learning.

 - Preschool: 10-15 minute lesson
 - Kindergarten: 15-20 minute lesson
 - 1st-3rd Grade: 20-25 minute lesson
 - 3rd-6th Grade: 30 minute lesson
- Music

Our music is designed to exalt the person and work of God through Scripture-saturated lyrics. We strive for a variety of music, including hymns, choruses, and children's songs.

- **Crafts**
Crafts are designed to capture a child's attention and to reinforce the Bible lesson.
- **Playtime**
For younger children, there is a specific time set aside to play. This allows the children's energy to be channeled in a proper way and helps make the rest of the class time more productive.
- **Snack**
Snacks vary between Mott's Medleys Fruit Snacks (naturally flavored), Annie's Organic Cheddar Bunnies, Rice Krispie Treats, or raisins. Please let us know if you would not like your child to have a certain snack.

OUR STAFF

The following qualifications apply to every adult serving in Grace Kids.

- Member of Grace Bible Church or has faithfully attended for 6 months and signed the doctrinal statement
- Passed a background check and personal interview with an elder
- Attends weekly worship service when not serving
- Committed to a Fellowship Group or Community Group

YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

SICKNESS

For the protection of all the children in our ministry, we ask that you keep your child out of children's ministry if he displays symptoms of illness. Thank you in advance for helping us keep Grace Kids a healthy environment for all. If your child becomes suddenly ill or an accident/injury occurs, we will isolate him from the other children and contact you immediately. We will also notify the nurse on duty if we feel your child would benefit from additional care.

SEVERE ALLERGIES

If your child has allergies or uses an Epi-pen, please notify the teacher in his classroom. (This information will also appear each week on your child's identification tags when you check him in to class.) The teacher will have you complete a severe allergy form if he uses an Epi-pen.

YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY

We desire to provide the safest possible environment for your child.

For the safety of your child, we have the following policies.

- A medical release must be on file for every child using an Epi-pen.
- Medications will not be given by our Grace Kids workers.
- We have a zero-tolerance policy for inappropriate contact of any kind and being in a room alone with a child.
- Only women will assist children to the bathroom, if assistance is needed.

NAME TAGS

All church volunteers who work with children are required to wear a Grace Kids' name tag whenever they are supervising children.

CLASSROOM EVACUATION

It is imperative that parents stay on the campus while their child is in the nursery, as they must be readily available in the event of an emergency. In the event of an evacuation, all children will be escorted by the Grace Kids volunteers to the **back gravel parking lot behind the Family Center**. Please keep in mind that normal checkout procedures will still apply. We appreciate your patience as we work for the safety and security of the children.

CHECK-IN & PICK-UP

CHECK-IN

Each child must be checked in and out of Grace Kids. As you enter the classroom, use the iPad to search for your child or enter his information as a visitor. You may check in multiple children at one location. Please ask a teacher for assistance, if needed.

Once checked in, two labels will print: one name label and one security label. The name labels include:

- Child's name
- Allergies or special instructions
- Parent name
- Parent cell phone number

Place the name label on your child. If your child needs you during the service, you will receive a text message on your cell phone. **Please keep your phone on vibrate during the service.** The security label is for you to keep and must be presented in order to check out your child.

PICK-UP

At pick-up, please use the iPad to check-out your child. Show your security label to the teacher and the teacher will verify that the code matches the child's. You are free to

give the security tag to another person (16 or older) to pick up your child, if needed. We are very careful to release a child only to the person with the correct security tag. You are responsible for who has your child's security tag!

Please be considerate of the volunteers and pick-up your child within 15 minutes of the close of the service.

FOURTH-SIXTH GRADE SELF-RELEASE

Fourth grade and above have the option (with their parent's approval) to be self-released. This means at the end of class the child can check themselves out and leave without a parent picking them up. If you do not wish your child to be released without you, please let his teacher know.

BEHAVIOR & DISCIPLINE

Behavior issues will be handled with gentleness and grace. We will not punish (physically, verbally, or emotionally) children for disobedience. If we are unable to control your child, or his actions are threatening the safety of other children, we will contact you during the service.

PROMOTION SUNDAY

Your child will be promoted to the next grade level once a year, at the beginning of June.