

**NURSERY MINISTRY  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Introduction**

Young children are important to our church. Jesus' love and care for children is recorded in Matthew 19:13-15:

*The little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." And He laid His hands on them and departed from there.*

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we should seek to model this attitude as we care for young children in the nursery. We encourage parents to include their children of all ages in worship. For those families who choose to use our nursery so that they may more fully participate in worship and other church-sponsored activities, we commit to provide a safe, enjoyable, and Christ-centered environment for their children.

As followers of Jesus, we are compelled by the Good News of the Gospel to love families in our community by easing the challenge of worshiping with babies and small children (up to kindergarten). To give young moms and dads that brief time to focus on worshiping God without the distraction of little ones can be a real blessing to their hearts, minds, and souls.

To that end, we are looking for people who will keep watch over these little ones who are precious to our Savior and to their parents. Typically nursery volunteers serve once every seven-eight weeks. In addition to toys, colors, and books, during that time, there is an audio sound feed from the sanctuary, so those in the nursery can hear the singing, prayers, and sermon, which is a great time to begin preparing older children for worship.

**Child Placement**

Our nursery is provided for children Newborn up to Kindergarten. Please honor these age limits and do not bring a child who is too old into the nursery. Exceptions must be cleared with the Nursery Director.

**NURSERY POLICIES**

Situations not explicitly covered by these policies shall be referred to the Nursery Director and/or diaconate or session for consideration. Any disagreements or misunderstanding between parents and nursery workers should be referred to the Nursery Director.

### **Use of Nursery Rooms**

1. The use of the nursery area and equipment shall be limited to nursery age children and their teachers.
2. Adult supervision will be required each time the nursery rooms are used for any church function. Youth may work under adult supervision in the nursery.
3. Toys will be put in their proper places and the rooms will be put in proper order after each use.
4. When the last child has been picked up after each event, either teachers or Nursery Director will clean any toy that has been in a child's mouth with antibacterial wipes and will lightly spray all other toys with Lysol.
5. No one will leave a child in the nursery for any reason other than to attend a church function.
6. Nursery workers are asked to refrain from eating in front of the children anything that is not being served to them.

### **What to Bring to the Nursery**

1. Children who are not potty trained or are in the process of being potty trained should have a diaper bag with disposable pull-ups/diapers, wipes, and a change of clothes.
2. Plastic bottles with instructions for feeding time, etc.
3. Children should not bring personal toys (security items/toys are okay).
4. A simple snack like animal crackers or goldfish crackers and juice or water is provided during the nursery. Inform the nursery worker if your child has any food allergies. Personal snacks are discouraged. Juice/sippy cups are fine.
5. Any special instructions should be provided in writing to the nursery volunteers.
6. Label all personal belongings.

### **Coming and Going**

1. Children will be received within 10 minutes of scheduled activity. Please do not leave children unless a nursery worker is there to receive them.
2. When you drop off your child, please make sure your name, cell number and child's name are recorded on the nursery board so you can be reached if needed.
3. We recommend that you do not come back to check on your child after leaving them. It is confusing for your child to see you and have to say good-bye again. If your child cries for more than 10 minutes and cannot be consoled, we will text you.
4. Parents or older siblings (middle school age and up) should pick up children promptly at the conclusion of the scheduled activity.

### **Illness (Refer to Appendix for more specific instructions)**

1. If your child is sick, please DO NOT bring him/her to church. Even though your child's illness may be mild, exposing other children and nursery volunteers could result in serious illness.
2. Nursery workers are instructed to turn away children who are visibly sick. They will also ask parents to pick up their children immediately if they show signs of illness while in the nursery.
3. Any serious allergies, problems, or peculiarities of feeding should be reported to the nursery worker.

4. No medication will be given to children by nursery workers.

## **APPENDIX**

### **INFECTION CONTROL GUIDELINES**

The church believes it is in the best interest of everyone for a sick child to rest and heal at home. If the child has a contagious illness and is brought to church and sent to the nursery, others may face serious health risks. The common cold for your child may be a severe health risk for someone else's child. Parents are encouraged to err on the side of preventing the spread of sickness when faced with the decision of whether to stay home or bring the child to the church nursery. However, this policy is not intended to restrict any opportunity to worship and you are encouraged to consult your physician if you have any questions about whether or not your child may be contagious. When making your decision, consider the following guidelines:

#### **Contagious diseases include, but are not limited to, the following:**

- Disease of the upper and lower respiratory tracts (i.e. sinusitis, sore throat, coughing, bronchitis, etc.)
- Gastrointestinal diseases (i.e. vomiting, diarrhea)
- Skin diseases (i.e. abscesses, open infected sores, wounds)
- Systemic illness with skin manifestations (i.e. measles, chicken pox, roseola, etc.)
- Other systematic illnesses (i.e. mumps, encephalitis, hepatitis)

Listed below are a few examples and situations in which a child should not be placed in the church nursery:

1. Fever (within last 24 hours)
2. Sore throat
3. Vomiting and/or diarrhea
4. Any symptom of the usual childhood diseases: Scarlet Fever, German Measles, Mumps, Chicken Pox, Whooping Cough
5. Common Cold
6. Croup
7. Any unexplained rash
8. Any skin infection—Boils, Ringworm, Impetigo
9. Pink eye and other eye infections

### **Behavior and Discipline**

We expect children to behave appropriately while in the nursery. Any action that disrupts the class or hurts another individual will not be tolerated. Examples of such behavior include hitting, biting, pulling hair, pushing, name-calling, and taking toys away from others. The nursery workers are asked to discipline the children according to the following schedule:

1. Verbal correction. The nursery worker will address child by name, identify offense, and using a kind but firm voice instruct the child not to repeat offense.

2. Time out chair. The nursery worker will address child by name, identify offense, and using a kind but firm voice instruct the child to sit in the time out chair (one minute per age of child).
3. Repeat time out chair.
4. If disruptive behavior continues after verbal warning and two time out chair disciplines, the nursery director and parent will be notified and the child will be removed from the nursery for the remainder of the current session.
5. If disruptive behavior continues a second week after removal and correction from parents, the parents will be asked to remove the child from the nursery for an agreed upon period of time.

### **Nursery Workers**

1. Arrive for duty at least 15 minutes prior to scheduled event:
  - Sunday School: 9:15
  - Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30
  - Sunday Evening: 5:45
2. Greet children at the door on their eye level with a smile and warm words of welcome as they arrive.
3. Teachers should stoop, sit on child-sized chairs, or sit on the floor with preschoolers, if they are able
4. Review and carefully follow guidelines established for discipline
5. Wash hands at the beginning of each session and after nose wipes. Use disposable gloves when changing a diaper. Replace used/changing table covering (spraying with Lysol if soiled through the paper) after EACH change.
6. All toys that have been handled and mouthed must be cleaned with an antibacterial wipe before used by another child. All nursery toys should be lightly sprayed with Lysol at the end of each session.
7. Make every effort to comfort and engage unhappy children. Text parents if a crying child cannot be consoled after 10 minutes.
8. Clean Nursery after each use.