



Welcome to Safe Sanctuary Training

Why we are here today?

- FUMC is committed to offering both hospitality and protection for the children and youth in our congregation, as they are the least able to protect themselves in our society and are particularly vulnerable to abuse and neglect.
- FUMC adopted our Child Protection/Safe Sanctuary Policies in 2005 mandated by the Florida United Methodist Conference.
- Annual training is required for all adults working with our children and youth to ensure that they are aware of all current issues regarding child protection.

Objectives

- Understanding of the FUMC standards for supervision of children Adult/Child ratio
- Knowledge of FUMC's procedures for signs of child abuse/neglect
- Review of appropriate types of guidance and discipline
- Outline of guidelines regarding acceptable physical touch
- Overview of the Illness Policy
- Coverage of the Appearance Policy

General Rules

- All activities involving children and youth will be supervised by at least one screened adult
- The “Two Person” Rule is defined as having two people in any setting, with at least one being screened adult
- Doors with windows, half-doors, or open doors are preferred

FUMC Adult to Child Ratio

- 1:4 for infants up to 11 months
- 1:6 for 12-23 months old
- 1:10 for 24-35 months old
- 1:15 for 3-5 years old
- 1:20 for children/youth over 5 years of age
- Refer to your Safe Sanctuary Manual for DCF guidelines. FUMC has chosen smaller ratios in some settings to maximize discipleship opportunities.

The age the youngest child present and the “Two Adult Rule” dictates the final ratio.....

- So if you have a room with children 2-5 you follow the ratio standards for 24-35 month old which is 2:10
- 1:4 for infants up to 11 months
- 1:6 for 12-23 months old
- 1:10 for 24-35 months old
- 1:15 for 3-5 years old
- 1:20 for children/youth over 5 years of age

Infant & Toddlers

- “Two Adult Rule”-Two adults required(at least one must be screened)
- If the two adults are related, a third adult should be present
- Doors with windows, half doors, or open doors are preferred
- Only screen adults may change diapers or help toddlers use the bathroom; bathroom doors always remain open

Grades K-5

➤ “Two Adult Rule”- Two adults required

At least one must be screened(floater can count as one adult)

➤ When two adults are not present, the classroom door must be left open and the floater can count as second adult

➤ Children must be accompanied to the bathroom by an adult or Hall Angel who remains outside and checks to ensure that no other adults are in bathroom. Most bathroom's are designated as children or adult restroom.

Grade 6-12 (Youth)

- At least one screened adult is required
- Two-adult & ratio rules apply

Open Door Policy

- Parents, volunteer, and church staff are always welcome, to visit and observe all programs and classrooms at any time

Sign In and Sign out Procedures

- Infant through Pre-K must be checked in and provided with child tags. The tags indicate child's name, parent or guardian names, as well as any allergies or special instructions. Parents will have a redemption sticker with a matching code only.
- Children in Sunday School and other activities must be checked in and may be picked up only by an authorized adult with matching sticker.

Responsibilities regarding reporting of suspected Abuse

- Anyone supervising children in our church has a moral responsibility and legal duty to report suspected abuse immediately when it comes to their attention- this is per the Florida “Mandated Reporter” Law
- Types of Abuse include Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Emotional Abuse
- Immediately, (if possible) find one of the following paid church staff for support: Annamarie Schulz-Child Safety Coordinator or a Pastor
- Together you and that staff member will find a discrete location to discuss the situation and file the report

Florida Child Abuse
Hotline

1-800-962-2873

Guidelines for Positive Interactions with Children and Youth

- Come prepared
- Keep things moving
- Be sensitive to the moods of the children/youth in the group
- Provide enough “Elbow Room”
- Set clear expectations with the children/youth

Guidelines-Part 2

- The goal of Discipline is to disciple or teach
- Use firm, but gentle voice
- Praise positive behavior; focus remarks on the desired behavior
- At times, we may have to withdraw children or youth from activity if they are having a difficult time. Contact Info Desk person, Pre-K Coordinator, Children's Director or Youth Director for assistance.
- Confidential parental discussion should be made by Pre-K Coordinator, Children's Director or Youth Director only

Examples of Negative Interactions

- Don't use words or a tone that might shame or frighten a child or youth
- Don't use sarcasm or scream at a child or youth
- Don't make remarks that put down a child or youth as a person, about appearance, race, or gender
- Don't use corporal punishment or spanking of any kind

Appropriate Physical Touch

- Non-demanding, gentle, touch of shoulders, arms/hands, head/neck, or back
- Sitting children on lap (only for Kindergarten age or younger)
- Maintain appropriate personal space

Inappropriate Physical Contact

- Kissing
- Demanding hugs or kisses
- Touching any area other than shoulders, arm/hands, head/neck, or back
- Piggy-back/neck rides

Illness and Infectious Disease Procedures

- If child is visibly ill, he/she should be removed from nursery or classroom and parent's should be notified immediately.
- Child exhibiting any signs of illness will not be allowed in the nursery or classroom. If a child has the following:
 - Discolored Mucus (Yellow or Green)
 - Fever in last 24 hours
 - Vomited in the last 24 hours
 - Diarrhea
 - Contagious skin rash
 - Discharge from the eye
 - Pink eye
 - Adhere to all "Control Methods" to ensure sanitary environment

Bullying and Other Forms of Aggression Policy

- First United Methodist Church of Clermont is committed to providing a safe, positive, productive, and nurturing spiritual environment for all of its church community. The Staff encourages the promotion of positive interpersonal relationships between members of the church community. We have no tolerance policy to these forms aggressions.
- Definition: A conscious, willful, and deliberate hostile activity intended to harm, induce fear through the threat of further aggression, and create terror. It is not about anger, nor about conflict it is about contempt a powerful feeling of dislike toward someone considered to be worthless/inferior/undeserving of respect.
- Examples include:
 - Imbalance of power
 - Intent to harm
 - Threat of further aggression
 - Terror
 - Aggressive behavior
 - Relational aggression
 - Cyberstalking or Cyberbulling

Dress Code and Appearance Standards

- As a representative of the church of God, volunteers should exhibit a neat and well-groomed appearance. Take pride in projecting a positive and modest image when leading our child and youth to the Lord.

Thank you for attending our Safe
Sanctuary Class.

Let's go forth and make disciples and
leaders.

FUMC thanks you for connecting our
children and youth to Christ!