

Bethel Church Nursery Policy

MISSION STATEMENT:

Nursery Care at Bethel Church is intended to express the love of Christ to children while implementing the best of care. Recognizing the importance of the early years when first impressions of the “church” are being formed, we strive to make this a positive experience for both parents and children. The Nursery Care Ministry of Bethel Church will provide a safe and loving environment so that infants and toddlers may find coming to church a pleasant experience.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to promote a loving, safe and welcoming environment and to preserve the nursery facilities.

AVAILABILITY AND STAFFING:

The nursery will be staffed by Nursery Care Volunteers during Sunday Worship Services and at additional services or events originating from Bethel Church as approved by the supervisor of the Nursery Director.

Any use of the Nursery facilities (and the subsequent guidelines for use) by ministries or events that originate outside of Bethel Church shall be determined by the Facility Officers. Typically, any individual or group filling out a building use form (such as Bible Study Fellowship, Boy Scouts, home school groups using Bethel’s facilities for testing, or individual birthday parties, etc.) shall be considered as using Bethel’s facilities for a ministry or event that originates outside of Bethel Church.

The nursery will be staffed to be in compliance with current liability insurance requirements as detailed in the Child/Youth Protection Policy.

The staffing ratio will be 1:3 (one volunteer for every 3 children) in the Infant Nursery and 1:5 (one volunteer for every 5 children) in the Toddler Nursery. In the event that there are not sufficient Nursery Care Volunteers to provide two volunteers per nursery room, the nurseries will be consolidated into one room, with a minimum of two volunteers staffing that room. If there are not enough volunteers available to provide the required minimum level of staffing, Nursery Care will not be provided. Nursery Care is provided from 15 minutes prior to the covered service until 15 minutes following service dismissal.

ELIGIBILITY:

The nursery facilities are intended to be used for children between the ages of six weeks and 24 months. Children two years of age and older are not allowed in the nursery unless supervised by a parent or guardian, and must exhibit appropriate behavior. Special needs children two years of age and older are allowed in the nursery under “Guidelines for Special Needs Children.”

CHECK-IN AND PICK-UP:

All children in the nursery shall be signed in and wear a name tag. The sign-in sheet shall include the child’s name, allergies and a form of contact for the parent or guardian. Once parents or guardians have checked in their child, they must remain on the church premises.

NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS OR GUARDIANS:

A parent or guardian will be contacted if at any time their child is inconsolable for more than 5 minutes.

ILLNESS:

There is no Nursery Care Policy regarding the immunization status of children or Nursery Care Volunteers. Parents should not leave children in the nursery if they exhibit the following symptoms:

- A runny nose with discolored mucus
- A temperature above 100 degrees
- An irritating cough that has persisted for more than 48 hours
- Drainage in the eyes, conjunctivitis or pink eye
- Irritability and fever due to immunizations in the last 24 hours
- Undiagnosed rashes or eruptions of unknown origin
- Diarrhea or vomiting within the last 24 hours
- Irritability and pulling at ears
- Parasites such as lice, mites or ringworm
- Any other known communicable/contagious disease

A parent or guardian will be contacted if a child appears ill while in the nursery.

Nursery Care Volunteers will not dispense medication under any circumstances.

Nursery Care Volunteers will also be asked not to serve in the nursery if they are ill with a potentially contagious illness.

GUIDELINES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN:

For the purposes of this policy, a special needs child is defined as a “child who, because of their disability, cannot attend a regularly scheduled class by his or her self”. To ensure the safety and appropriate care of special needs children, the parent or guardian must meet with the coordinator of the nursery (at least one week before nursery use), to determine whether the child’s disability can reasonably be accommodated within the limits of a volunteer nursery care ministry, and, if so, to develop a plan of nursery care appropriate to the child and the nursery care ministry.

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