

LITTLE TIKES

Parent Handbook

***For children ages
Birth to 4 years***

Covenant Church of Easton

Loving God, Growing Together, Serving Others

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(revised February 25, 2016)

Welcome!

We at the Covenant Church of Easton believe your child is a special gift from God, and we would like to provide the best love and care possible. In this handbook are some guidelines to help make your child's time at church more enjoyable. If you ever have any questions, concerns or ideas, please feel free to contact the Director of Children's Ministry, Roseann Slater, or the Chair of the Children's Ministry, Paula Keegan.

This booklet contains:

- A description of our ministry to children ages birth through age 4
- Guidelines for parents

Our Ministry to Young Children

The Covenant Church of Easton provides care during both Worship Services for children ages birth through age 4, from 8:45 am until 12 noon in two different rooms. There is a paid childcare worker and weekly volunteers. A background check is done on all staff and volunteers ages 18 and over. All staff/volunteers are screened and chosen through an application process to ensure a safe, loving environment for your children.

The Nursery (0-18 mos.)

The nursery is staffed by weekly volunteers for ages birth to 18 months (or until they are ready for the space and toys in the PreK Room). We have books and music to teach about God's love and care for them.

The Preschool Room (2-4 year olds)

During the 9 AM Worship Service, 2-4 year olds will be cared for by a paid childcare worker, and a weekly volunteer. Children will enjoy intermittent structure with games, stories and simple crafts.

During the 10:45 AM Worship Service, along with the paid sitter, the children will have a Sunday School teacher. The lessons include Bible stories, music, puppets and activities to learn how much God loves and cares for them, and how they can show God's love to others.



Guidelines for Parents

These are helpful measures to ensure the health, safety and enjoyment of both the children and the volunteers who participate in our ministry. Please follow these simple guidelines.

Upon entering, please assist your preschooler and toddler in washing his/her hands. This is a precautionary measure helping to ensure a nut-free environment and helps prevent the spread of contagious germs.

Health. We want to provide a healthy environment, so please make sure your child is well. We cannot accept children who show signs of illness. Please keep your child home when you observe any of the following in the past 24 hours:

- Excessive coughing
- Discharge around eyes
- Green or yellow runny nose
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fever
- Any communicable disease
- Questionable skin rashes

The admittance/refusal will be at the discretion of the paid childcare worker. If your child becomes ill while in our care, you will be notified promptly. If your child is on antibiotics, he/she should have received treatment for at least 24 hours before coming to any of our childcare rooms. If your child has symptoms from an allergy or other condition which is not contagious, please consult the childcare worker.

Sign-in / Pick-up. For the safety of the children, we ask parents to sign-in their child, indicating your location during the morning, along with any special instructions, and who will be picking up the child following the Worship Service. Please pick up your child promptly following the Worship Service so that volunteers and staff may be dismissed. We will not release your child to an older sibling unless you have given prior consent and so noted on the sign-in sheet.

Your child may cry when you leave, and this is a healthy, normal way to express a preference for you. Your child will quiet and begin playing within a few minutes, and the fussing will diminish with regular attendance. Should your child have difficulty in adjusting and suffer from excessive crying, you will be promptly notified.

Personal Items should be clearly labeled. This includes your child's diaper bag, bottle, pacifier, or any other personal items you bring into the room. Include 1-2 diapers and wipes with your infant or toddler. If your child is potty training, please include a change of clothes in a labeled plastic bag.

Please do not send any toys with your child unless it is a "security" item.

Snacks will be offered to children who are able to eat such foods as graham crackers and Cheerios. If you do not wish your child to be served a snack, please inform the childcare worker.

Nut products cannot be brought into any of the childcare areas. Please read all food labels carefully!

Due to problems with severe allergies, nut products or any food containing nut products **cannot be brought into any of the childcare areas. **Please read all food labels carefully!**

Volunteering. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Roseann Slater for more information and to begin the application process.

Thank You!

Thank you for entrusting your children to the care of our nursery and preschool room. We hope that your worship experience is enhanced through the knowledge that your child is being well cared for.

Should you ever have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact the Children's Ministry Director, Roseann Slater.

Childcare Staff

Cosette Albert – Cosette is currently working as a Special Needs Para in Greenwich elementary schools and after-school programs. She has many years of experience in childcare for kids of all ages, including two teenagers of her own (Lucas & Kayla). She has been attending Covenant for 16 years, which has included teaching Children's Worship and VBS. Her references describe her as "calm, kind, perceptive and patient."



Pam Eckenrode – Pam has identified her calling and is currently working on her Early Childhood Special Ed Certificate. She is a Certified Nursing Assistant, working at Maplewood Assistant Living in Milford and she has years of experience in home care. Pam also is a veteran Sunday School teacher and childcare giver. She has a son, Jake, in high school, and they have been attending Covenant for about four years. Pam is warm, compassionate and patient, too.

Roseann Slater, Director of Children's Ministries

– Roseann has worked in Children's Ministry in almost all the same places as the current Senior Pastor. She has a degree in Christian Education from Wheaton College in Illinois and some grad studies at Alliance Seminary in New York. One of the best parts of Children's Ministry is being there when a child encounters the Great God of the Universe, because that's what He desires. Roseann resides in Shelton with her husband Cary and their two children Abigail and Noah, and their dog.



Children's Ministry Volunteers

Nursery, 9 AM



Christine Austin – Christine has been teaching preschool for 11 years, currently at Trumbull Early Childhood Education Center, and has one daughter in college and one in high school.

Melissa Otten – Melissa most recently has taught preschool at the Covenant Children's Center and has been teaching at Stratfield Elementary School for the past 7 years. She has 4 children.



Darian Veerman – Darian is a pediatric nurse who worked in neonatal nursing for 16 years and has been a pediatric asthma nurse specialist for the past 15 years. She has 3 children and 7 grandchildren.

Nursery, 10:45 AM



Krista Dolan – Krista has been a nanny for six years for 6-year-old twins. She is currently working on her Master's Degree in Family Studies from Fuller Seminary.

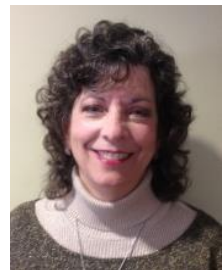
Brenda Hurd – Brenda has worked both professionally and as a volunteer in Children's Ministry for many years. She has two grown children.



Kim Rieger – Kim has had her own in-home childcare and has been teaching preschool for 15 years, currently at Trumbull Early Childhood Education Center. Her daughter Tori Rieger has been babysitting and helping with Children's Ministry at Covenant for

several years.

Nancy Wilber – Nancy comes from a line of educators and especially has a heart for education through non-profit organizations. She currently is working in Bridgeport and has a grown daughter pursuing education as well.



Sunday Preschool Teachers, 10:45 AM



Christina Avila – Christina has been working at Bright Futures Childcare Learning Center in Fairfield for the past eight years. Her daughter, Tamara, is a sophomore in college.

Pat & Bill Croasmun – Pat has committed her life to ministering to children – first as a speech/language pathologist and learning disability specialist and then as a children's pastor. She particularly enjoys working with preschool and early elementary kids. Bill has learned that he loves working with kids, too, as he has partnered with Pat in children's ministries. It is wonderful having a male role model in the classroom.



Luiza Kosminsky Estrada was a first grade teacher in Brazil and is currently teaching Spanish at Weston Middle School. She has two young daughters and one in high school.

Kim Meachen – Kim has been teaching for seven years, currently in Weston. Her daughter Alexa is in high school and has been helping with her two young sisters and in Covenant Children's Ministry for several years.

