

Preschool Ministry



Statement of Purpose

The objective of the Preschool Department is to provide preschoolers with a loving and safe environment in which spiritual foundations will be laid that will guide each child, when he reaches the age of accountability, to a personal relationship with Christ.

Availability

Screened and qualified teachers will staff each preschool department as follows:

Sunday Mornings (9:15-12:00)

- Sunday School- all preschoolers
- Extended Teaching Care (ETC) (teaching during the morning worship services)- Babies through 4's
- Children's Worship- Ages 4-3rd grade will attend the beginning of the 10:30 worship service with their parents and be dismissed to Children's Worship after the Children's Sermon. Parents may pick their children up after the service in the Children's Worship room.

Sunday Evenings

- Babies through 2's - Extended Teaching Care (5:00-7:00)
- 3's and older- Music (5:00-5:45)
- 3's return to ETC after Choir
- 4's and 5's go to a preschool discipleship class (6:00-7:00)

Wednesday evening

- Babies-3's ETC
- 4's and 5's Mission Friends (6:00-6:45)

Preschool rooms are to be open 15 minutes before each scheduled activity and children are to be picked up no later than 15 minutes after the activity has ended.

Policies and Procedures

FOR PARENTS

Phone: (318)325-3126
Pam Jones
Children's Minister



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In order to provide for preschoolers during the worship services, all FBC members who are parents of preschoolers will be expected to serve on a regular basis in Extended Teaching Care. Please see the Director of Children's Ministry to reserve your spot in ETC.

Arrival

- Parents and other children are to remain outside the classroom.
- Parents are to sign the security sticker provided, noting any special needs or instructions.
- Vibrating pagers will be available for use by parents of babies or preschoolers of any age with special needs.
- Parents should not leave a child in the classroom unless a teacher is present.

Dismissal

- Please wait outside the classroom when retrieving your child.
- Give your sticker to the teacher. The teacher will bring your child to the door.
- Check for all your child's belongings.

Donations

Many times, parents wish to donate their child's toys to the church. This is a wonderful way to keep our classes stocked with the latest toys; however, it is preferred that only toys in excellent condition be contributed.

Feeding

- Infants will be fed formula, milk, juice, or water as provided in bottles or spill-proof cups.
- Snacks will be provided by the church for older preschoolers during most sessions.
- Time and space may not allow for spoon feeding. Parents should stay to feed the child unless the teacher is available, and if the other children's needs can still be met.



Health

For the well being of everyone, preschoolers should not be brought to church if they have, or have had within the past 24 hours:

- Fever
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Contagious childhood diseases
- Common cold
- Sore throat
- Croup or bad cough
- Any skin infection or unexplained rash
- Pink eye

Promotion

- Preschoolers will be promoted on a quarterly basis as a group through age 3. Be ready to promote your preschooler on the closest scheduled promotion date after his or her birthday.
- Our promotion dates occur on the first Sunday in January, April, July, and October.
- Promotion into all other church activities (preschool worship, mission friends, choir) will occur in August as the school-aged children promote.

Nursing Mothers

A private room for nursing mothers is available in the Newborn nursery room.

Parent Participation

- Diaper bags and other belongings are to be labeled in advance
- Regular attendance, positive conversation about church, and patience, will alleviate most separation anxiety problems
- As soon as a child is able to walk, he should be encouraged to enter the classroom on his own. If your departure is upsetting, tell your child in a kind, firm voice that you are going, but that will be back soon. Then leave immediately.
- Parents will be notified after 15 minutes if their child remains inconsolable and unable to adjust.
- Parents may check on their children between sessions, but are asked to be extremely discreet so as to not upset the child.
- Arriving promptly at the close of each session will help them avoid feeling that they have been left behind.
- Preschoolers should not bring any toys from home unless it is comforting to the child.

Safety

In the event of an emergency, parents may pick up their children in the designated areas once the emergency has subsided and it is safe to do so. Parents should not attempt to retrieve their children, as it would risk their own safety and intensify the situation.

- In case of fire, all preschoolers will be quickly escorted to the nearest parking lot.
- In case of tornado, preschoolers will be moved to the hallways and restrooms near the Children's Wing.

Security

Your child's safety is our utmost concern.

- Parents or guardians of younger preschoolers fill out one portion of a security sticker, noting the child's needs. That portion goes on the child as a nametag. The parent keeps the other portion of the sticker and should present it
- If the parent does not have the sticker, a photo ID matching the parent's name on the sticker will suffice. A church staff member or director may also authorize the release of a child.
- To the best of our ability, each preschool room is staffed with two workers who have undergone a background check.
- We have a team of Deacon Nursery watch men. They sit in the foyer during the church service for security purposes.
- Each room has a walkie talkie so that communication is present between the nursery watch Deacon and the preschool rooms. The rooms can be locked if an emergency situation arises and is necessary for our protection.