

Procedures for Worship Childcare

Many children will go to worship until dismissal after the children's message. Some will choose to stay in the classroom after Sunday school and not attend worship. So children may already be in the classroom when you arrive and more will come in about 20 minutes.

These are the check in procedures at this time for the two older levels:

Hanging on the door or on the wall near the door are name charts.

Parents are encouraged to switch their child's names according to being in or out of the classroom.

Some children may arrive on their own from worship, please check the name chart when all the children are in the classroom to make sure all are accounted for.

For new families and guests there is now a hanging envelope with information forms for the parents to fill out. Next to these forms are pockets with blank name chart cards and one with a stick-on nametag for the child. You can place this tag quietly on the child's back if they are anxious about wearing it. It is important to know the names of all the children in our care.

I will make a list of cell phone numbers and leave it in the rooms as one way to reach parents in a case of an emergency.

Parents should put their phone on vibrate. We will call them if their child needs them.

There should be a first aid kit for each classroom. It will be well marked in the closet.

All potty trips must be with an adult.

Fran or Barbis will do diaper changing in the infant room for that age group. If a diaper needs to be changed for a preschooler hopefully it can wait until the service is over, if not, please call the parent.

Parents must be on the premises when a child 4 and under is in Sunday School or childcare and at all times we should have a way of getting in touch with a parent. (Cell is best.)

Youth volunteers:

Youth volunteers will usually be with you. This is an important area of service for them, and may be the first real independent "service" to their church. We want it to be a positive experience. For the most part high school youth are the only age group with infants, older middle school youth are with Preschool and 5th/6th grade with K/1.

Younger youth, especially, can be shy. Please introduce yourselves and welcome them into the room. We teach best by modeling.

From time to time they will make unwise choices and you will need to mentor them. They need our guidance in the same way our little one's do and this is a wonderful opportunity to show them Christian care and friendship.

Please be firm but loving. They have been instructed to play with the children gently, help pick up toys, never to remove a child from the room (potty breaks are to only be done by an adult) and never to pick any child up and always leave diaper changing to adults. But they will forget. Love them through it.

Activities:

Worship childcare is a time of play and community building for our young ones. Loving encouragement of respectful behavior should always be the rule.

Each week, get to know the children. Tell them your name so they know what to call you if they need help. I am old fashioned and prefer they call you Mr., Mrs., or Ms. (Ok, maybe not so old fashioned.) But you may do whatever you please.

For the two older levels, we have about 12 "Big Book" Bible stories to choose from distributed between the two closets. If you are so inclined, a time of singing simple Sunday school songs would also be lovely.

Usually Fellowship Hall is available and children love a game of Duck, Duck, Goose to get the wiggles out. In church I use Bible names like Peter, Peter, Paul, or Mary, Mary, Joseph. Of course, never "God" or "Jesus". More games are at the end of this sheet. Depending on the game there may be enough room for both groups to play separately. If not, take turns with this space.

Playground:

After singing and story time, you may use the playground on nice days if children have coats, etc. Please be aware that little girls need to be watched carefully if in "dress" shoes. Watch your time and be back inside well before worship is over.

Be careful NOT to let the youth start "racing" games or display behavior that isn't what we want for the younger children. Lovingly and firmly explain the manner they need to play with the children and why.

Snacks:

I really think the K/1 level can do fine without a snack.

The Preschoolers may benefit from some crackers and water while sitting at the table. I will supply the cups and nut free crackers. Snack time should be for about 5-10 minutes and then all food put away. Please avoid having children walk around with any food or drink.

Kindergarten/First Grade Classroom (Room 103):

The closet on the sink side is ours. The toys on the shelves are NOT to be used by our children and should not be easily accessible. Our toys are in the closet and in rolling carts stored in Room 101 (the old nursery and now Preschool room)

I usually have play do, coloring, puzzles and other games available including some cars and trucks etc.

Preschool Classroom (Room 101):

You are the lucky ones as your classroom is not shared space so everything in your room is for your use.

You will be working with our Preschool staff person, Ms. Winnie Wolfe. Winnie is on duty for the Worship Childcare hour and can help you with names and procedures

Dismissal and closing the rooms:

ALL children must be dismissed to a parent. Please do not dismiss to older siblings.

At the end of the morning tables need to be wiped off and all toys put back. Any dirty diapers need to be thrown away in the NURSERY. Frank will vacuum.

Re-cap of ages and times:

Nursery / toddlers: **If needed from 10: 20. Check with our staff, Fran Poarch and Barbis Marquardt who will be in the room.** If not needed at the beginning of worship, come out after children's sermons and stay until after children are picked up and toys put away. Room 107

Preschool (Two's – Four's) From **10: 20** until after all children are picked up and toys put away.

K – 1 (Pre/K, K and 1st grade) **From 10:20.** It may be that only one of you with the youth may be needed. There is no staff person for this age. Two adults must be there for the time after the children come out of the service until the end

New Families:

Our church is blessed by constant visitors of all ages. When you see a family you don't know or who is looking confused, please welcome them and explain our procedures. I know you will need to attend to the children but do invite them to our Fellowship Hour after worship and tell them that information on our church will be available there.

Remember, they come looking for God's love through us. Your warm smile is so important is showing this.

Simple games for Fellowship Hall

Red Light, Green Light: Even though this game is meant to play outdoors, you can have it indoors if the space permits.

Use chairs to define the "lines". You should have lots of space in between the lines. Pick one player to be the Police Officer and have him stand in front of one line. Other kids stand behind the opposite line.

To start the game, the Police Officer yells, "Green Light!", and starts counting to five out loud as quickly as he can. The other players must run toward the Police Officer while he is counting. When he finishes counting to five, he yells, "Red Light!", -- all the players must freeze instantly! The Police Officer turns around quickly to spot any players who are still moving. Those players must return back to the starting line, while the rest of the children stay frozen where they've stopped. The person, who crosses the line first, wins. He or she becomes the Police Officer in the next round.

Adults need to make sure kids really do freeze AND that the Police Officer doesn't turn around too early-

Noah's Ark: Kids and adults sit in chairs in a circle. Every one is assigned the name of one of three animals, i.e.: lion, goose, fish. One child is then selected to be "it" in the center and his chair is removed. (There MUST be one less chair than players at all times)

"It" must call out an animal and all of those animals must get up and run to switch chairs. While they are doing so, "it" must try and find a chair as well. "It" also has the option of calling out "Noah's Ark" and then EVERYONE has to get up and switch.

A child can only be "it" once... if they are left standing again you need to pick someone who has not been "it" to be in the center.

Simon Says: The child who is Simon stands in front of everybody and gives various commands, such as "Simon says, jump up and down!". If he doesn't say, "Simon says" then the children must not do the action. If they do they are out. The last child remaining is the winner, and can have a turn at being Simon.

What's the Time Mister Lion? You could have an adult be Mister - or Mrs. - Lion for the first round. As this is a chasing game, you'll need enough room for your guests to run - so this game could be played outside.

Mister Lion stands at one end of the room. The children stand in a group at the other end of the room. Slowly moving towards the wolf, they start to shout, "What's the time Mister Lion?"

If Mister Lion says "one o'clock!" or "six o'clock", the children can continue. But if the wolf shouts "Dinner time!" they had better start to run - as Mister Lion will chase them! The child that is "tagged" gets to be Mister Lion for the next round.

Any other simple game you can think of- TONS online, just Google "Preschool Active games"