

Nursery & Children’s Ministry Child Protection Policy

Christ Covenant Church

“Our children are worshippers who have an eternal destiny—either heaven or hell. God can use us as parents to help point them to Jesus. What an enormous privilege, but what weighty responsibility that is. Churches also have a responsibility to steward the gift of children. Several hours a week, parents entrust this very precious gift of children to churches—to watch over, instruct, and protect the kids under their care. Church workers then should consider the time spent with other people’s children not as a burden, but as a great privilege and important responsibility.” (Deepak Reju)

Protecting Children Before They Arrive

To ensure a safe environment for all children, every applicant who wishes to serve in the nursery or children’s ministry is required to submit a background check and complete childcare training before serving.

Screening Procedure

To ensure safe and quality care, Christ Covenant has established several criteria all caregivers must meet to work with our children:

- All caregivers must be members (or children of members) in good standing at Christ Covenant.
- All caregivers must be eighteen years of age or older. Youth who are at least eleven years old are welcome to assist (subject to the approval and direction of the Children’s Ministry Director), but they are always in addition to the adult caregivers.
- All caregivers must have completed childcare and abuse awareness training.
- All background checks must be satisfactorily completed.

Training

All caregivers must complete childcare and abuse awareness training before they are allowed to work with children. This training is renewed yearly. Parents with questions about childcare training are encouraged to contact the Children’s Ministry Director.

Signing a Child in to Nursery and Children’s Ministry

All parents who would like their child to be in the nursery or participate in a children’s ministry program must check the child in to the appropriate classroom or activity granting permission for the child to participate in the event or program. The child and parent will receive a coordinating identification sticker to be used at pick up.

Pick Up Procedures

Any parent with a child signed in to the nursery or a children’s ministry program must pick up the child using the identification sticker given at check in.

Allergy Policy

Classes frequently have snack times, and it is the parents’ responsibility to inform teachers and volunteers of allergy needs. Special needs should also be noted on the identification sticker.



Two Caregiver Rule

At least two qualified caregivers must be present in each classroom at all times. One of those caregivers must be an adult. We consider adults to be age eighteen and older. Youth who are at least eleven years old are welcome to assist (subject to the approval and direction of the Children's Ministry Director), but they are always in addition to and supervised by the adult teacher. If at any time there is only one person in the room, the class door must remain open to the hallway.

Hostess Responsibilities for Children's Ministry

The hostess is an adult caregiver whose duties are not limited to any one classroom. The hostess will assist at the check-in kiosk, monitor the hallway and restrooms (see Restroom Procedure for Children's Ministry), and be available to the other caregivers (e.g., locating parents if needed, substituting temporarily for another caregiver).

Restroom Procedure for Nursery

If possible, parents should have their children use the bathroom before entering nursery. All diaper changing and/or potty needs must be handled by female caregivers only.

Restroom Procedure for Children's Ministry

Children pre-k through fifth grade needing to use the restroom shall go with another child of the same age and gender. The restroom should be unoccupied by adults prior to children entering. The hostess will supervise from the hallway outside the closed bathroom door until the children are finished. The children must wash their hands with soap and water. The hostess will ensure they return to the classroom. This will enable the classrooms to maintain appropriate child to caregiver ratios.

Electronics Policy

Cell phones and other devices are not to be used during class time by children or adult caregivers. If it comes out the teacher will ask that the child put it away. If it continues to be a distraction, the teacher may hold on to it until the end of class time.

Graduating From Nursery

Children who are four may move up to the Prek/K Sunday school class and Children's Church. The transition occurs quarterly on the first Sunday in September, December, March, and June.

Appropriate Discipline

All nursery and children's ministry volunteers are responsible for providing a loving, respectful, and orderly atmosphere in which children can learn, play, and interact with others. This atmosphere should be maintained by preparing beforehand, proactively directing children towards acceptable activities, verbally encouraging positive behavior, and, when necessary, correcting or redirecting inappropriate behavior.

Acceptable means of redirecting inappropriate behavior include correcting the child verbally, withholding a certain privilege or activity for



a brief time, or separating the child from the group for a brief time (particularly if his behavior is endangering or upsetting other children).

Nursery and children's ministry volunteers and staff members should never yell, spank, or hit a child. If behavior is uncontrollable or the child does not respond to the discipline measures above, ask the Children's Ministry Director to call the parents.

Mandatory Reporting

According to North Carolina law, "Any person or institution who has cause to suspect that any juvenile is abused, neglected, or dependent...or has died as the result of maltreatment, shall report the case of that juvenile to the director of the department of social services in the county where the juvenile resides or is found. The report may be made orally, by telephone, or in writing" (G. S. 7B-310).

All children's ministry volunteers who have any such suspicion should immediately report their concern to the hostess or Children's Ministry Director who will contact the Pastor of Counseling.

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