

Dear Parent:

Welcome to our Nursery Ministries at Grace Fellowship Christian Church! We seek to provide a safe, Christian atmosphere for the younger members of our church family. We hope that our loving care for your child will allow you to relax and enjoy worshipping and growing together here at Grace Fellowship.

We believe that our children are God's greatest gift! Our nursery ministry provides special care to children from the ages of 12 to 35 months. We hope to contribute to their well being and complement the Christian nurturing already taking place in the home. We strive to help your child build trusting relationships and feel a sense of belonging by reaching out in love and understanding.

We hope this handbook will convey our commitment to provide a safe, caring environment through loving caregivers. Please assist us in reaching this goal by taking time to review and understand our policies. If you have any questions or suggestions, we hope you will call us.

Once again, welcome! We look forward to serving the needs of your family.

In His Grip,

Jacqui Huxford
Nursery Director
956-2461

Coordinators:

*Mary Ferguson
869-8603
*Evie Bristol
987-5025
*Jodi Stephens
987-5623



Purpose of the Nursery Ministry

- To share God's love with our children by ministering to their needs in a caring and nurturing environment.
- To help each child feel comfortable and special.
- To help each child feel secure with adults who love and care for them.
- To help each child learn to play and share with other children.
- To help each child have positive feelings about coming to church.
- To encourage the active participation of parents in worship.

General Policies

1. The nursery opens 10 minutes prior to services.
2. Children are to be brought to the nursery by their parent and will only be released to their parent when they present their numbered pager. (Children will not be released to an older sibling unless they are over 14 years of age.)
3. Parents should pick up their children immediately following the service in order to be courteous to our volunteer staff. Please do not leave your child in the nursery in between services as our volunteer staff will switch and there may be a 10 minute time frame where no volunteers are in the room.
4. Please have your child's belongings properly labeled. This includes:
 - diaper bags
 - bottles
 - drinking cups
 - coats
 - blankets
5. We discourage children from bringing personal toys to the nursery area. If they must bring a special toy for comfort, please prepare your child that they may have to share with others.
6. Due to concerns of moral and ethical integrity, we must exercise caution in bathroom facility interaction. A parent will be paged if a child needs a diaper change or needs to use the restroom. This rule protects minors by reducing the risk of abuse, and protects workers by reducing the risk of false accusations.

Caregiver Qualifications

Persons working in Nursery Ministries at Grace Fellowship Christian Church shall:

1. Enjoy being with children.
2. Show patience and love for children.
3. Be willing to serve with a happy heart.
4. Adhere to the policies and procedures presented in this handbook.

Safety Policy and Registration

We have a security system in place to protect your children. When you bring your child to the nursery, you should sign your child in at the Nursery Registry table. Select a pager and write down the number, then take the pager with you. Please give "Special Instructions" about anything you feel the caregiver should know about your child during his/her stay at the nursery (ex. any allergies or special needs he/she might have). When you return to pick-up your child, please return your pager to the caregiver. Children will only be released to an ADULT returning the pager. An older sibling **will not** be allowed to pick up his or her younger sibling. Additionally, we ask that parents remain **at the door** of the nursery. It will make it easier to keep all the children in the room and will speed up the exiting process. It is our goal to create and maintain a safe, clean and loving place for our members and visitors to bring their children.

Food Policy

1. Medications cannot be given by nursery personnel. Please do not bring any type of medication in the nursery area.
2. It is likely that your child will be served a snack, such as goldfish and water, during the Sunday morning worship service. If your child is allergic to anything, please notify the caregiver.

Health Policy

1. For the protection of your child and the other children, parents are requested not to bring a child who appears to be ill. A child should not be placed in the nursery when any of the following exists:
 - Fever -- currently or within previous 24 hours
 - Vomiting or diarrhea
 - Significant, persistent nasal drainage which is green or yellow in color
 - Any symptom of a childhood disease, such as scarlet fever, German measles, mumps or chicken pox
 - Common cold
 - Sore throat
 - Any unexplained rash
 - Any skin infection
 - Pink eye or other eye infection.
2. We will not administer any medication.
3. If the child develops a fever or other symptoms of illness while in the nursery, the parents will be paged to come and get the child.

4. If your child has a physical condition which may require specialized intervention or precaution, please contact Jacqui at 956-2461 to discuss special arrangements.
5. If your child develops an infectious disease (chicken pox, etc.) after he/she has been in the nursery, please contact the Nursery Director, Jacqui Huxford, at 956-2461 so we may notify other parents of their child's exposure.
6. Nursery workers are required to wash their hands after using the restroom.

Classroom Management

The behavior of children while in the nursery will be managed in a manner that will protect their self-esteem and that will encourage children's independence, creativity and ability to mature and be nurtured in the growing knowledge of God's love.

Every attempt will be made to soothe a crying child. In the event a child cries inconsolably, the parent will be paged.

Children are expected to follow the directions given by their caregiver. Any correction needed will be done in a positive manner. The caregivers will give each child 3 warnings for misbehavior and then the parent will be paged. Parents are expected to encourage their children to follow directions given by a caregiver. The parent will be contacted if any child refuses to comply with the caregiver's direction.

How Parents Can Help

1. To assist your child in adjusting to his/her surroundings, try to bring him/her to church on a regular basis.
2. Have your child signed in and be sure to pick up a pager. Keep your pager in a safe place. You will be asked to return this when you come for your child.
3. Be sure to label your child's belongings clearly.
4. Pick your child up promptly after the service. Staff will remain until each child is picked up.
5. We are always accepting new volunteers in our nursery and would love to have you help us provide this service. Please contact us if you are willing to serve in this capacity.

For more information on our nursery care, please feel free to read our *Nursery Volunteer Handbook*. Any parent may request a complete copy of the policies for their home reference. Make requests to Jacqui Huxford, 956-2461, or email me at jjhux@embarqmail.com.