



NURSERY MINISTRY
HANDBOOK

Love the LORD your
God with all your heart
and with all your soul
and with all your strength.

These commandments that
I give you today are to be upon your
hearts. Impress them on your children.

Talk about them when you sit at home and
when you walk along the road, when you lie
down and when you get up.

Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind
them on your foreheads. Write them on the
doorframes of your houses and on your gates.



Deuteronomy 6:5-9

Dear Parent,

Welcome to our Nursery Ministry at First Presbyterian Church. We seek to provide a safe, Christian atmosphere for the youngest members of our church family. We hope that our loving care for your child will allow you to participate in the multitude of opportunities here at First Presbyterian Church.

We believe that our children are God's greatest gift! The Nursery Ministry provides special care for infants and young children that contributes to their well-being and complements and strengthens the Christian nurture the child experiences at home. We strive to help your child build trusting relationships and to feel a sense of belonging by reaching out in love and understanding.

We hope that this handbook will convey our commitment to provide a safe, caring environment with trained Caregivers for your children. 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 contact us.

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

Serving Him with you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nell Miner".

Director of Nursery Ministry

PURPOSES OF THE NURSERY MINISTRY

- To learn the love of Jesus Christ for them
- To help each child feel comfortable and cared for
- To learn to play and share with other children
- To nurture positive feelings about coming to church
- To encourage the active participation of parents in Worship, Bible study and other church related activities

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

As a Christ-centered ministry, the Nursery Ministry will strive to foster an environment in which the children entrusted to the Nursery are cared for spiritually, physically, and emotionally. The goal of the ministry is to provide parents a safe place where their children will be welcomed, loved, and can grow in God's love.

GENERAL POLICIES

1. The Nursery opens 15 minutes prior to services and other scheduled events.
2. Children are to be brought to their age-appropriate room by their parent and will only be released to their parent or the guardian listed on the sign-in registry.
3. Parents should pick up their children immediately following the service or event they have attended.
4. Please have your child's belongings properly labeled. This includes diaper bags, bottles, pacifiers, drinking cups, coats, and lovies. Any items that are not labeled will be labeled by your child's Caregiver. We have First Presbyterian detachable diaper bag tags available. Please keep this tag, or another identifying tag, attached to your bag.
5. Children should not bring personal toys to the nursery. Security items, such as lovies, are of course permitted.



FOOD POLICIES

1. Infants will be fed formula, milk, juice, or water as provided. A refrigerator is available to keep bottles fresh. Warming instructions, if any, should be conveyed on the sign-in registry. Please label each bottle with your child's name.
2. We will be happy to feed your child the food you provide. If your child is allergic to anything, please notify the Caregiver and attach an Allergy Alert sticker provided. Morning snacks for children older than 1 year are given at 10:00 am. Please include and label bibs, spoons, and other necessary items in their bag. Food for toddlers must be cut into bite-sized pieces.
3. Medications cannot be given by Nursery Caregivers. Please do not put any type of medication in your child's bottle.
4. Mothers are welcome to use the Mother's Rooms located in both the Christian Life Center and the Education Building.
5. Chewing gum is not allowed in the Nursery rooms.

HEALTH POLICIES

1. For the protection of your child and the other children, parents are asked to not bring a child who appears ill.

A child should not be placed in Nursery when any of the following exist:

- Fever, diarrhea, or vomiting within the last 24 hours (The child must be symptom-free for 24 hours without medication.)
- Significant, persistent nasal drainage that is green or yellow in color
- Symptoms of any childhood illness (Strep Throat, Hand, Foot, and Mouth, Impetigo, etc.)
- Common Cold
- Sore Throat
- Any unexplained rash
- Any skin infection
- Pink Eye or other eye infection
- Head Lice

2. We will not administer any medication.

3. If the child develops a fever or other symptoms of illness while in Nursery, he/she will be separated from other children and the parents will be contacted to take the child home.

4. If your child has a physical condition which may require specialized intervention, or precaution, please contact the Director of Nursery Ministry at 706-291-6033, ext. 124 to discuss special arrangements.

5. If your child develops an infectious illness (Strep Throat, Hand, Foot, and Mouth, Impetigo, etc.) after they have been in Nursery, please contact the Director of Nursery Ministry at 706-291-6033, ext. 124 so we may notify other parents of their child's exposure.

6. Toys used by the children are sanitized at the end of each session and at other times as necessary.



REGISTRATION AND SAFETY ASSURANCE

On your child's first visit, you will be asked to fill out a Connect Form if the online form has not been submitted. It is extremely important that the information be accurate and complete, including pertinent medical history.

When signing in your child on the sign-in registry, please use the "Special Instructions" space to write anything you feel the Caregiver should know about your child during their stay in Nursery, including who will pick up your child should you not be available.

The following measures are taken to promote safe care: security cameras in the rooms and hallways, limited access to the rooms, and CPR and First Aid Training for Nursery staff.

It is our goal to create and maintain a safe, clean, and loving place for our members and visitors to bring their children.

RESERVATION AND CANCELLATION POLICIES

1. Sunday morning and Wednesday Night Gathering nurseries for children 8 weeks through age five, do not require reservations.
2. If, after making a reservation for events which require a reservation, you find your child will not be attending, please notify the Nursery Director to cancel the reservation as soon as possible.
3. Children without a reservation for events which require a reservation will be accepted on a space available basis.

NURSERY BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

The behavior of children while in Nursery will be addressed in a manner that will protect their self-esteem and foster independence. We will encourage creativity and nurture them in the growing knowledge of God's love.

Every attempt will be made to soothe a crying infant or child. In the event an infant/child cries inconsolably, the parent will be notified to assist.



CAREGIVER QUALIFICATIONS

In addition to meeting the requirements of the job description, all paid workers and volunteers in the Nursery Ministry at First Presbyterian Church shall:

1. Have a love for Jesus Christ.
2. Enjoy being with children and show patience and love for them.
3. Have childcare skills which include diaper changing, feeding, soothing, and engaging in play.
4. Have current qualifications in CPR and First Aid.

We check all paid workers' references, and they must undergo background checks and drug screenings.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

1. Signing in your child properly by completing all the information on the sign-in registry.
2. Be sure to label all your child's belongings clearly and place our diaper bag tag on the diaper bag. For younger children, please bring a change of clothing in case of spills or soils.
3. Make and cancel required reservations in a timely manner.
4. To assist helping your child in adjusting to his/her surroundings, bring him/her to church on a regular basis.





First Presbyterian

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