



Childrens' Ministry Kickoff

Aug. 29, 2009

Mission Statement: "Partnering with parents in leading kids to walk in the light."

Theme Verse: 1 Peter 2:9: But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you **out of darkness into his wonderful light**.

Children's Ministry Values:

- Partnering with parents in making disciples of Christ.
Eph. 6:4: "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."
- Depending on God in prayer to do what He alone can do.
Eph. 3:20: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine... "
- Protecting children with an uncompromising safety process.
Neh. 4:9: " ... we prayed to our God and posted a guard... "
- Creating an exciting and fun learning environment with excellence.
Col. 3:23: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men."
- Affirming leaders to use their God-given gifts.
1 Thess. 5:11: " ... encourage one another and build each other up ... "

General Policies

Application
Process

We are committed to the safety of the children entrusted to our care. Anyone convicted of either child sexual or physical abuse will not be permitted to serve in children's ministries at Cornerstone. The application process involves submitting an application, a background and reference check, and a possible short interview for new leaders.

Six-Month Rule

Generally, leaders must attend Cornerstone for at least six months before serving in children's ministry.

Membership

All leaders must be members of Cornerstone Baptist Church. If you are not yet a member, please begin that process immediately beginning with the Sunday class, "Discovering God's People."

Age Requirements	Students must be at least 12 years old and obtain approval from a parent and the youth pastor.
Arrival	All leaders should arrive <u>at least</u> 15 minutes prior to the start time of any particular ministry.
Identification	All leaders must identify themselves with an "In the Light" lanyard and name badge while serving. This is to identify you as an approved leader.
Absenteeism	If you are not able to meet your responsibility, please make every attempt to replace yourself with an approved leader. Notify the change to the person in charge or call if you cannot find someone.
Two-Person Rule	At least two leaders are to be present in each room at all times. This is for the kids' and for your protection.
Diaper Changing	Only women are allowed to change diapers or assist potty-training children.
Bathroom	Children are not to walk to the restroom unescorted. Men are never to enter a bathroom with a child but are to remain in the hallway, propping the door open if necessary. Children should toilet themselves.
Tagging	Every child will be given a name tag, whether a regular attender or visitor. Kids should be informed that this is not for them, but for others to get to know them.

Safety & Security

Room Safety & Security Procedures	All kids are to check in upon arrival to their class. They are not to be dismissed until an approved parent checks him/her out. Other family members are not allowed to check out the children unless previous arrangements were made. If there is ever a question, you may ask for the parent's I.D. or contact Brien. On Sundays, 3 rd -6 th graders may be dismissed to meet their parents before the service. On Wednesdays, only 5 th and 6 th graders may be dismissed.
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Foods & Allergies	With a high percentage of children allergic to various foods, we must make sure that only "church-approved" snacks are served. We strive to be sensitive to those allergic to peanuts and not serve food with peanuts at our church. It is always a good idea to contact parents prior to serving anything brought from home.
Infection Control	Hand washing is the #1 barrier to keeping children and leaders healthy. Wash hands frequently and after coming in contact with any body fluids.
Accidents	<p>Know where the nearest first-aid kit and radio are. Always inform the parents about what happened, no matter how minor. A parent should be contacted immediately whenever there is an accident containing blood or vomit. We may not administer any medication, creams, or ointments to children.</p> <p>Parents are not legally responsible to share specific information regarding specific contagious diseases children may have. Therefore, always wear gloves when coming in contact with any body fluids. Always clear other children from the area. Gloves are available in the nurseries and preschool classrooms. Otherwise, they can be located in the first aid cabinet in the children's ministry resource room (CMRC).</p>
Physical Contact	Physical contact with children should be minimal and only in the presence of other adults. Appropriate touching should be limited to handshakes, high five's, brief hugs, or a brief touch on the shoulder.
Photos	Please respect the parents of the kids in our children's ministry by not posting photos of their kids online (e.g. Facebook). Although it may seem harmless, parents may have different reasons why they prefer we not do this. The exception to this would be if permission was granted from a parent of each child in the picture.

Discipline

Setting limits for children is essential in providing a safe and happy place for them to learn. We want to be a reflection of Christ in how we treat and speak to the kids. Misbehaving children should be dealt with accordingly with a good measure of common sense. The following are some guidelines in preventing misbehavior:

- 1) Pray for an attitude of love and acceptance of the children.
- 2) Let the children know your expectations.
- 3) Get to know the children well.
- 4) Anticipate disruptions.
- 5) Understand age appropriate limitations.
- 6) Keep children moving and active.
- 7) State the consequences of wrong actions.

When disciplining:

- 1) Be consistent.
- 2) Carry out discipline in a kind and quiet manner.
- 3) Deal with the heart, not just the behavior.
- 4) Use the child's name to refocus attention.
- 5) State positively what is expected of them.
- 6) Use age appropriate time-outs. (one minute per age of the child)
- 7) Seek help from other leaders.

Responses not allowed:

- 1) Yanking, spanking, or hitting a child.
- 2) Publicly embarrassing a child in front of others.
- 3) Telling a child he/she is "bad."
- 4) Making threats with no follow-up.
- 5) Yelling at a child.

Parent Communication:

- 1) Inform parents of BOTH positive and negative behavior of their children.
- 2) Do not be afraid to share incidences with parents regarding their children. Parents want to know the truth of how things went with their child. Be as detailed as possible, explaining how the leaders responded to the situation.
- 3) Sometimes communicating a child's negative behavior would be better at another time less distracting or rushed.