



CREEKSIDE

PARENT GUIDE

2026-2027

We are excited to have your child or children participate in our Creekside children's ministry at First Free Church, Minneapolis. Please familiarize yourself with the policies we have in place at First Free to help maintain safety to all participants at Creekside.

CREEKSIDE'S MISSION

Creekside's mission is to provide a safe space for all kids to come to KNOW God, GROW in God, and SHOW God's love to others. Our aim is to help kids KNOW God in an intimate and personal relationship. We desire to help kids GROW in that relationship with God, giving them tools to mature in their faith. We love helping kids SHOW God's love to others by being the hands and feet of Jesus to those around us.

WELL-CHILD POLICY

In order to provide a healthy environment for all of our children, we ask that children be kept at home with any of the following symptoms and/or illnesses:

- Fever
- Active Chicken Pox
- Runny Nose (unless due to non-contagious allergies)
- Measles
- Questionable Rashes
- Mumps
- Coughing
- Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)
- Diarrhea
- Hand/Foot/Mouth Disease
- Impetigo
- Sore Throat
- Vomiting
- Covid-19

If a child is being treated with antibiotics, he or she should be on the medicine for at least 24 hours before coming to Creekside. Kids should be fever free for 24 hours before coming to Creekside.

CHECK-IN SYSTEM & PROCEDURES

Creekside uses an electronic check-in system for safety purposes and to track attendance.

Parents/Caregivers need to go to a Creekside check-in station to check in their child. New families can fill out a form with basic information and use the QR code to register a new child.

The check-in system prints a sticker name tag for each child and a security sticker with the kid's matching code for the parent/caregiver. Adults hold on to the security sticker and hand it to the Creekside leader when picking up the child. All kids need to wear their name tags while at Creekside. After checking in, parents/caregivers should walk kids to their classrooms.

Sundays:

All children in fifth grade and under need to be checked in. Children staying for both hours can get checked in once, which covers both services.

Wednesdays:

Parents/Caregivers need to come into the building to check-in their child for Creekside Clubs.

Kindred Kids:

Moms/Caregivers should check children in at the beginning of Kindred if they expect the child will join a class at any point of the morning (including babies who may start the morning with a mom/caregiver).

CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES

Parents/Caregivers should remain in the hallway while picking up children and not enter the classroom. Parents/Caregivers must present the security sticker with the coordinating code to the kids' name tag when picking up all children. If children in a household are checked into multiple rooms, show the sticker to the leader for verification, and hand the sticker to the leader where the last child is being picked up. Leaders will collect name tags and security stickers for all children.

TOYS

As a general rule, no toys should be brought to Creekside classes with children. There is a tendency for toys to get lost, broken, or shared with other kids. If a child must have a special toy, the toy may be visible in the classroom, but not playable. A leader can retrieve the toy for the child at the end of the class.

If a child needs to hold a fidget in class and it's being used as a tool, the fidget should be for the child's hands only and not shared with others. We ask that kids only bring only one or two fidgets to class. Each classroom is equipped with appropriate fidgets and leaders can work with kids to determine if they would benefit from them.

There may be exceptions to these toy and fidget rules and alternatives can be discussed with leaders, parents, and the Children's Ministry Director.

CAR SEATS

All car seats must remain outside of the Nursery. If a child comes to the Nursery and is sleeping in his/her car seat, the options are:

- The child stays with the parent until the child wakes up, then comes to the Nursery.
- The child can be transferred to an available Pack 'n Play in the Nursery.

SLEEPING

- If a child is sleeping in a Pack 'n Play in the Nursery, a nursery worker will be within sight or hearing of the child at all times.
- If a child is being put down to sleep in the Nursery, this child must be placed on his or her back to sleep.
- Nothing is allowed in the crib with the child except a pacifier (no blankets or toys).
- If a child is sleeping in a Pack 'n Play, the Mother's Room will be locked to the outside and unavailable to moms during the napping time.

DIAPERING & BATHROOM USAGE

- Diapers are changed only by a parent or the on-duty Nursery Coordinator.
- Nursery & Preschool kids use the bathrooms inside of classrooms or the individual bathroom near the Preschool room. If a child needs assistance from a leader, the bathroom door will be left open while assistance is given.
- Children potty-training should use the restroom with a parent/caregiver prior to drop-off and come to class with a change of clothes.
- Kids in elementary school will be accompanied to the hallway of the bathroom by a leader. The leader will check that the bathroom is safe/clear, and then remain in the hallway until the child is finished.

SNACKS & ALLERGIES

If a child has an allergy, it should be noted on the fall registration form. Allergies are indicated on the child's printed name tag. If a child has an epipen, it must be given to a leader each time the child is dropped off and picked up at the end of each class.

Kids who have food allergies will be served appropriate snacks or parents can provide a snack for their child.

Sundays:

Because of Fellowship Time, where donuts are served, classrooms typically do not have snacks. The Nursery occasionally serves Cheerios and cups of water on Sunday mornings.

Wednesdays:

Creekside Clubs groups have snacks served during the evening. These snacks are free of nuts. If kids have food allergies, appropriate snacks are provided.

Kindred Kids:

The Nursery serves Cheerios during the morning and the Preschool groups serve Goldfish crackers with water. The Homeschool group offers snacks that are free of nuts.

Women's Neighborhood Bible Study:

Cheerios and Goldfish crackers are served with cups of water.

VOLUNTEERS

All Creekside volunteers have:

- Been background checked (18 years and older).
- Successfully completed MinistrySafe's sexual abuse awareness training (16 years and older).
- Attended the annual Creekside Safety Training.

CONTACT INFO.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these policies, please reach out to Carrie Boyum, Children's Ministry Director at carrie.boyum@firstfreechurch.org.

