

Children's Ministry Parent Information
Sunday School & Worship Care
Infant - 6th Grade



PROVIDENCE
Baptist Church

Welcome Letter

Dear Parent:

Welcome to our Children's Ministry at Providence Baptist 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 Sunday school and time of worship available here at Providence.

We believe that our children are gifts from God. We strive to help your child build trusting relationships and feel a sense of belonging reaching out in love and understanding.

We hope this handbook will convey our commitment to provide a safe, caring environment through trained caregivers and a security system that ensures your child's safety. Please assist us in reaching this goal by taking time to review and understand our policies. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact the nursery coordinator regarding Sunday school and worship nursery questions. You may contact the church secretary regarding nursery during prayer meetings and /or special occasions if nursery is to be provided.

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

Serving Him with you,

The Children's Ministry Team

Mission Statement for Children's Ministry

Our mission is to come alongside our parents in the high calling of God to raise children that love the Lord with their whole heart, soul, and might (Deuteronomy 6). We seek to provide a loving environment to nurture our children helping them understand the purpose for which God created them, able to acknowledge their need for salvation, develop a personal relationship with the Lord, and to grow in maturity through ministry of the Scriptures.

In Matthew 19:14 Jesus said: ***“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”*** Because Jesus values children, we highly value ministry to children beginning at the earliest ages.

Our Ministry Options

Our desire is to bless our families by enabling parents to participate in both Sunday school and times of worship. We offer Nursery and Sunday school classes divided according to their age (at the beginning of the school year), as well as Worship Care.

Nursery

Loving care and prayer characterizes this room. The nursery is for Infants up to 24 months old. The children are cuddled, rocked and played with. We offer cribs, infant swings, age-appropriate toys and safe space for exploration.

Children 2-3 years of age:

Your child will be taught a lesson from the bible using an age-appropriate curriculum to teach them about God. This class includes crafts, interaction with other children, singing and memorization of bible verses.

Children 4 years-2nd Grade:

Lessons are presented to the children with the goals to develop their character and grow their knowledge of God. These sessions include prayer time, crafts, singing, play time and memorization of bible verses.

Children 3rd-4th Grade:

The children will be taught lessons from the bible to help them understand God's purpose in their lives with the use of age-appropriate material. This class includes prayer time, crafts, interaction with other children, and memorization of bible verses.

Children 5th-6th Grade:

In this class the children will be taught aspects of God's character and His purpose in their lives. With an age-appropriate curriculum, we work to develop a biblical worldview of things relevant to this life and the life to come.

Worship Care

Worship Care is offered during service for infants to kindergarteners.

Policy & Guidelines

To properly care for our children, we have set forth the following policy and guidelines to ensure that ***“all things will be done decently and in order”*** (1 Corinthians 14:40). This will help us to be of the same mind, to keep each other accountable, and to provide a safe loving environment that our families can take confidence in.

- When a child (kindergarten or younger) is dropped off, the parent must sign him/her in with complete written instructions.
- Only the workers serving on a given day will be allowed in the classroom, before, during, and after each service.
- Parents are not to enter the room unless there is a specific need.
- There must be at least 2 workers per room at all times, and children are never to be left unattended.
- When accompanied by an adult member of the church (21 years or older), our high school students may serve in the children’s ministry. Students in the ages of 12-15 years of age may serve accompanied by one of his/her parents.
- Only adult women are permitted to assist children in the use of the bathroom.
- All bags, cups and coats must be labeled.

Special Attention for our Visitors

In order to assure visiting parents of our commitment to the safety of their children we have implemented a card pick-up system.

- The parents must fill out the card for their child with all appropriate information and they will receive a pick-up card.
- The pick-up card is to be turned in upon picking up their child.

Children’s Ministry Workers

All of our workers are required to read and abide by the Guidelines for the Ministry and Care of Children, fill out a volunteer form with personal information, and complete a Reference Check Permission Form before working in the nursery. New church members will be asked to wait for six months before working in the nursery.

Our volunteers consist of parents and other members of our church family who are 21 years old and have been a member of the church for at least six months. Volunteers 16-20 yrs. old may serve with an adult. If volunteers are between the ages of 12-15, they may serve when accompanied by his/her parent.

We encourage all members with infants or toddler age children to volunteer in one of the nurseries during one service approximately once every quarter, if they meet the requirements explained above. The schedule will be posted on the website quarterly.

Children's Ministry Availability

Children will be accepted 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start of Sunday school and worship time. Children should be picked up promptly, within 10 minutes after the service. Please wait to socialize with friends until after you have picked up your child. Many of our caregivers have children of their own to pick up, but are not free to do so until all the nursery children have gone with their parents.

Safety

There should be no more than eight children at a time in any of the nursery rooms. We also require that at least two workers be on duty at all times. For safety reasons, we do not allow children above nursery age to enter the nursery rooms at any time. If a situation requires immediate attention, one of the workers will contact the nursery coordinator or the person in charge that day, and the parents.

Playground: If taking the children outside, the worker will place a sign on the door to inform others where they are.

Food Policy

We will be happy to feed your child the food you provide. Please include bibs, spoons, straws or other necessary items in his/her bag. Food for toddlers must be cut into bite size pieces. Infants will be fed formula, milk, juice or water as provided in plastic bottles. All bottles should be pre-mixed and poured by the parent. Please label all items with your child's name. Medications cannot be given by nursery personnel. Please do not put any type of medication in your child's bottle.

Toddlers will be served a snack of cracker, cinnamon graham bears and fruit gummies when appropriate. If your child is allergic to anything, please notify your caregiver.

Mothers who are nursing may do so in the nursery. However, please provide a bottle for your baby in the event your return is delayed.

Health Policy

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 - Temperature of 100 degrees or more currently or within previous 24 hours,
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Significant, persistent nasal drainage which is green or yellow in color

- Any symptom of an infectious childhood disease, such as scarlet fever, German measles, mumps or chicken pox
- Common cold or sore throat
- Any unexplained rash or skin infection
- Pink eye or other eye infection.
- Severe coughing
- Body or head lice

We will not administer any medication.

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

If your child has a physical condition which may require specialized intervention or precaution, please contact the Sunday School Director or Nursery Coordinator to discuss special arrangements.

If your child develops an infectious disease (chicken pox, etc.) after he/she has been in the nursery, please contact the, Sunday School Director or Nursery Coordinator so we may notify other parents of their child's exposure.

Toys used by the children are sprayed with disinfectant at the end of each Lord's day and washed quarterly and at other times that are deemed necessary.

We will not allow your child to be unduly sad or uncomfortable in the nursery. If your child has been crying and continues to be upset for 10 minutes, we will come and get you.

What to Bring

A diaper bag with the child's name clearly labeled. This ensures that your child receives only his/her own diaper and bottle/food. This is very important since many children have allergies and sensitivities, even to specific brands of diapers and wipes. Always include a minimum of three disposable diapers. Disposable diapers are preferred. A pacifier if he/she is accustomed to one. Please include a holder to attach the pacifier to the child's clothing.

Bring a complete change of clothes - socks, underpants, pants and shirt. Label each item. For bottle-fed children less than 12 months, provide an already prepared bottle. (premixed formula or juice). For children no longer on the bottle, please bring a sippy-cup labeled with the child's name. Please label everything: bag, blanket, coat, bib, bottle, pacifier, clothes and baby carriers.