

Faith Bible Church

Sharpsburg, GA

Nursery Parents Policy

Purpose: The childcare programs at Faith Bible Church (FBC) exist to facilitate the larger purposes of our church by providing loving childcare for your children, allowing you to participate in these efforts with greater focus. We recognize this is a serious responsibility, as you entrust Nursery Workers with the safety and care of your children while you are at church.

Ministry Mindset: In addition to providing for your child's safety, we realize the opportunity serving in the nursery presents to be an example to their young hearts of compassionate service. Thank you for this privilege. While it is a privilege to minister to you and your child, we would like to share this opportunity with many people so that those who serve in this ministry are also able regularly to take part in the corporate worship service. We would like both Dad and Mom to serve in this ministry. We do require that you are a member of Faith Bible Church and attend this church for six months before you can be approved to serve in the nursery.

General Policies: These policies are established by the FBC Elders, in conjunction with the Nursery Coordinators, to establish guidelines and procedures in an effort to accomplish consistent care of each child's physical, emotional and social needs for each child in the nursery. Some items that follow are for your information and some are more regulatory. Specific policies will follow each general statement.

1. Parents need extra time to deliver children to the nursery room and to get to the auditorium. For visitors the completion of necessary paperwork takes additional time. Parents who arrive at the church only a few minutes before the scheduled start time of an event will likely be late to the event and cause disruption in the nursery rooms.

Specific Policies:

- (a) Therefore, the Nursery will be open **10 minutes** before each scheduled event or Worship Service and will remain open for at least

15 minutes following that service.

(b) When services are over, **please return promptly** and pick up your child because even well-adjusted children become anxious when they see others leaving and their parents haven't returned. In addition, Nursery Workers often have their own children to care for and other responsibilities; therefore, as a courtesy to them please do not delay.

(c) The facilities of our nursery ministry are only for parents who are attending / visiting our church. We will not accept the children of parents who are not attending or visiting FBC.

2. We desire to provide informed care for the children left in our nursery. We don't want to rely upon memory for the things we need to know about each child.

Specific Policies:

(a) Therefore, in order to provide quality care for all children, we ask parents to please complete the "Baby's Schedule" or "Toddler's Schedule" form upon the child's first visit to the Nursery.

(b) A Nursery Worker will also have parents review these Schedules periodically to keep the information as current as possible.

3. Children must be kept physically secure while in the care of the church.

Specific Policies:

(a) Therefore, children will not be allowed to be picked up by anyone other than the parents who left the child in the nursery unless specific, written instructions are provided by the parent(s).

(b) Older children, even siblings, are not allowed to pick up younger children, including siblings, from the nursery unless the parent(s) leave(s) written instructions specifically naming the child who will be picked up and by whom.

4. It is difficult but necessary to keep children's items separated in order

to reduce the spread of germs and help ensure their diaper bags and clothes do not get mixed together. Toys must also be managed for the same reasons.

Specific Policies:

(a) Therefore, all items brought into the Nursery rooms should be marked as to ownership. This includes all items in the diaper bag and bottles, etc.

(b) It is recommended that parents provide individual bottles, diapers, pacifiers, and one change of clothing. These articles will not be used by other children.

(c) Toys are provided in the nursery rooms and are cleaned and disinfected regularly. We ask that children not bring their own toys.

5. The safety and security of all our children and Nursery Workers requires us to control physical access to and the items allowed to be brought into the room. For the safety and security of all our children, Nursery workers are required to keep doors closed except when receiving and returning children to / from their parents

Specific Policies:

(a) Parents are requested not to enter the room. (Nursing mothers may use the nursing room off the main foyer.) Children are to be passed over the split / Dutch doors when leaving the child or picking up the child.

(b) Whenever the door is closed, please knock (don't just open the door) and a worker will open the upper half of the door and take your child or get him for you. Please be patient with our workers as it may take them a few moments to meet your needs, as they take care of all the needs present in the room.

(c) Strollers are not allowed in the Nursery rooms. They may be "parked" in the hallway until needed. If possible, we ask parents to

please fold them to take up less space.

6. Because most young children are emotionally immature, there may be times when they are upset at being left in the nursery. Sometimes their crying and clinging can cause distress to other children as well. Even after "calming down" children can begin to cry again if they see parents or relatives

Specific Policies:

(a) Please tell your child (in a kind, firm voice) that you are leaving for a while, but will be back soon. Then leave immediately. (Be assured that most children adjust quickly, stop crying, and have a good time once the parent leaves.)

(b) If your child continues to be upset or becomes upset later, a Coordinator will come find you and consult with you about how you wish to deal with the situation.

(c) Please ask friends and relatives to refrain from visiting your child while they are in the care of the nursery as this can disturb and upset a child when this is done. The darkened glass in the hallway can help anyone check on children without being seen and disrupting the children.

7. Nursery workers are sometimes too busy to give attention to special needs without prior arrangements being made through the Nursery Coordinator.

Specific Policies:

(a) Nursery workers will give bottles and/or finger foods, but may not be able to feed baby foods during regular Sunday morning or evening services.

(b) If your child requires baby food, please discuss with the Nursery Coordinators how this will be handled.

8. Some children are very unruly and disruptive or require too much attention

from Nursery Workers due to extreme emotional immaturity. As a rule, parents with unruly children can be helped by the parenting ministries of FBC. Until children are under control the FBC Nursery may not be able to accept some children.

Specific Policies:

(a) Therefore, FBC reserves the right to suspend or dismiss a child whose behavior (biting, spitting, scratching or any other inappropriate behavior) may pose a danger to others.

(b) Alternatively, FBC reserves the right to suspend or dismiss a child who is so emotionally immature as to never calm down and continually disrupt the nursery and demand the complete attention of one or more Nursery Workers.

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Appendix 4: Child Illness Policy

Purpose: This policy provides guidance for parents and Nursery Workers regarding children who are or may be ill and/or contagious.

Ministry Mindset: It is the desire of the FBC Elders and Nursery Coordinators to limit any child's exposure to infectious diseases as much as possible. Parents and Nursery Workers share in this responsibility. Please assist us in this difficult task by using the following information to help you identify whether or not your child should be in the Nursery environment.

General Policy: According to the National Academy of Pediatrics a child who has exhibited any of the following symptoms within a previous 24-hour period is possibly contagious and should not be in a group situation. We base our policy upon the recommendations of the "Report of the Committee on Control of Infectious Diseases of the American Academy of Pediatrics."

Specific Policies: Therefore, with the cooperation of the parents in discerning the condition of children brought to the nursery, the FBC Nursery Workers are not allowed to accept children with the following:

1. Fever (should be free of fever without medication for 24 hours).
2. Vomiting and/or diarrhea.
3. Any symptom of usual childhood diseases—Scarlet Fever, German Measles, Mumps, Chicken Pox, and Whooping Cough.
4. Common Cold—from onset through one week. Thick green or yellow mucus draining from the nose.
5. Sore throat.
6. Croup.

7.Any unexplained rash.

8.Any skin infection—Boils, Ringworm, Impetigo.

9.Pink eye and other eye infections. Redness of the eyes, with mucus being produced in varying quantities.

10.If during any session your child becomes ill or exhibits any of the above symptoms, you will be notified and your child will be isolated as effectively as possible.

11.Workers may not give medications in any form. If a child must have a medication, we ask that parents come and administer the medication at the proper time.

Addendum to Parents Policies:

Some parents may desire for their small children to take a nap during a scheduled worship service at Faith Bible Church. The Nurseries have several pack-n-play's available for children to use for napping.

If a parent prefers that their child sleep in any room other than in the staffed nursery rooms, is it the policy of FBC that the child is NOT under the supervision of the Nursery staff.

In other words, the parent is free to request use of any available Nursery-provided equipment (pack-n-play, blankets, toys, etc), but if the child is in a room across the hall, for example, it is the parent's responsibility for checking on their child and providing for their care, not the Nursery staff. This would only apply to children who are outside of the directly-supervised Nursery rooms.