



Nursery Parent Guide Hope of Christ Church

At Hope of Christ Presbyterian Church, we celebrate each child as a gift from God. Our prayer is that the nursery volunteers at Hope of Christ would come along side of parents to play an essential and influential role in making God's love real to these little ones. The goal of the nursery is to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the youngest in our congregation, and those visiting Hope of Christ, in such a way that they will feel loved and valued. A child is never too young to learn about Jesus and His love. We are committed to effective ministry with children, nurturing them and serving their parents.

Children's Ministry Vision Statement:

We desire to encourage children to know their creator God and their need of redemption through the gospel of Jesus Christ. We work toward this goal by immersing them in Scripture and teaching them how to pray, worship, and learn to love their neighbors as they grow in their understanding of God's grace. We also encourage and support families through discipleship and offering practical support as they seek to instruct their children in the precepts of the Holy Scriptures.

Our nursery ministry is two-fold:

1. It enables parents to participate in church services and Sunday School freely.
2. It exposes even the youngest babies to loving attitudes, actions, and a Christian atmosphere, which begins to form their spiritual development.

The nursery policies have been set for the following reasons:

1. Ensure the safety and well-being of the babies and toddlers.
2. Aid in the consistency and expectations for babies, parents, and workers.
3. Promote clear communication that aids parents and nursery workers.

Policies:

Allergies:

1. If your child has a particular known allergy, please make sure it is listed on your child's tag and make sure the worker is aware.

Check-In:

1. Please stay in the area outside the gate while checking in your child.
2. Please sign your child in on the sign-in sheet.
3. Fill out a label and attach it to your child and his/her bag.
4. Complete a Nursery Information Sheet if you are visiting the nursery for the first time.
5. Please make sure workers are aware of any known allergies that your child may have.
6. Please take the parent portion of the sign in label. You will need to present this when you pick up your child.



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Check Out:

1. Please stay in the area outside the gate while checking your child out.
2. Please turn in the parent portion of the sign in label so workers can match the number.
This is required for picking up your child. Identification will need to be shown to a Children's Ministry Team member if the parent does not have their sticker.
3. Children may be released to siblings – but ONLY high schoolers and older that have the parent's sticker.
4. Please sign your child out on the sign-in/out sheet.

Food/Snack:

1. We provide animal crackers and water.
2. Please alert us of any allergies on your child's label and Nursery Information Sheet
3. We do not feed infants (anyone under 12 months old) unless specified by their parent.
4. Only adult workers will feed infants unless specified otherwise by the parent.

Health:

1. If your child is not feeling well, please keep him/her with you. We cannot allow children in the nursery if they are sick or have had symptoms within the past 24 hours.
2. In order to provide a safe, healthy nursery for all our children, we ask that you keep your child home any time he or she exhibits any of the following symptoms:
 - a fever currently or within the last 24 hours (must be 24 hr. fever free without medication)
 - an unidentified rash
 - an irritating cough that has persisted more than 48 hours
 - colored nasal discharge
 - any symptom that they would usually stay home from school with
 - lethargic behavior (you know when the child isn't feeling well)
 - diarrhea or vomiting within the last 24 hours
 - head lice, pinkeye, ringworm, impetigo, or other conditions that are highly contagious
3. We understand that this can be inconvenient, but we are trying to look out for the health of the children and families of Hope of Christ, and appreciate your cooperation in this.

Nursery Availability:

1. Children (0-3 yr. old) are only to be in the nursery, under the direct care of the scheduled nursery workers, during the worship service and Sunday School. If the nursery will be open for other church events, information will be provided in advance.
2. The nursery is generally open but not staffed for the Christmas Eve, Tenebrae, and Good Friday Services.
3. The other nursery room is available to be used as a nursing moms' room. It contains two rocking chairs, two changing tables, and a pack n play. Moms using this room will be able to watch the church service streamed on the television.



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Parent Help:

1. Have spare diapers and wipes in your diaper bag
2. Have a pair of spare clothes in your diaper bag – even for potty trained children (accidents do happen)
3. Please discourage bringing toys from home into the nursery. We understand that “lovies” are sometimes needed.
4. Do not go through the nursery gate when picking up or dropping off your child unless a worker asks/needs you to. It can sometimes make these transition times harder for your child and other children.

Potty Training:

1. Please let the worker know if your child is potty training and what assistance your child may need.
2. Please take your child to the restroom before dropping him/her off in the nursery. Please use the restroom in the hallway so that the nursery restroom is available for children in the nursery.

Separation Anxiety:

1. We are mindful of children’s personalities and that some children need to be played with and engaged in order to help distract from being separated from parents. If a child continues to be inconsolable, (e.g., crying for 10-15 minutes) we will text the parent or come and get you.
2. You can always look in through the window in the door to see how your child is doing because your child cannot see you.

Workers:

1. All nursery workers are members at Hope of Christ.
2. All nursery workers have passed a background check and safety training through Protect My Ministry, Hope of Christ’s child protection services provider.
3. Young people serving are at least 12 years old to serve as a worker and serve under the supervision of his/her parent.
4. Two workers are required to be in the nursery at all times.