

EXCERPTS FROM NURSERY MANUAL:

For questions regarding our policy please contact our church office at 346 6400.

A Vision for Children and the Church, Presbyterian Church USA

Jesus said to them, "Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me; for the least among all of you is the greatest." (Luke 9:48)

Because we affirm that all children are a gift of God,

Created by God and created good;

All children are a gift to the whole of the human community

All children have a real faith and gifts for ministry;

All children have the right to be children and all children are

Not just tomorrow, they are today.

Because we believe that all children depend upon adults for safety

and security in a world that does not always value children;

all children are affected first and most deeply by those things that work

against health and wholeness: where there is disease, children sicken and die;

where there is homelessness, children sleep on the streets

and in other dangerous places; where there is war, children are frightened and without a safe

place; where the air and water are polluted, children feel the effects in their bodies and in their

futures; where there is shame, children's spirits are wounded.

Therefore we hope for a world where all children can find a safe place,

where all ages, races, genders, creeds, and abilities are recognized, valued and celebrated; where

all adults hear the voices of children and speak with as well as for them, where all children have

"first call" on the world's resources and first place in the minds and hearts of the world's adults.

Because Jesus welcomed children and encouraged us to welcome them in his name;

Jesus lifted up a child as an example of what the realm of God is like.

Therefore, we hope for a church where we take seriously our baptismal

Vow to nurture all children committed to our care;

Where we bring good news to all those places where children are in need;

Where adults and children alike share in ministry.

1993 General Assembly Statement, A Vision for Children and the Church

As a Congregation Covenanting for Children, Covenant Presbyterian Church affirms that we believe:

All children are created in the image of God.

The vows we take in Baptism engraft us into covenant community and call us to faithfulness on behalf of the church universal.

The transforming welcome of the Lord's Table compels us to welcome children in ways that transform lives.

Therefore we covenant to live into these spiritual disciplines

Pray for children

Re-double our efforts to involve children in the worship life of the church.

Strengthen our ministry with children in Christian education, pastoral care and spiritual formation.

Discern our mission in addressing the needs of children near and far.

Be faithful stewards of our resources for ministry and mission with children.

Share our experiences with others- upholding and building up one another's ministries.

And to practice our faith by

Intentionally broadening our embrace to include children of the church, the community, the nation and the world.

Participating in ministries consistent with the three-part harmony of child advocacy: education, mercy/direct service and justice/systemic change.

Assessing our congregation's holistic ministry with and for children.

Adopted by Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2005

Christian Education and General Nursery Information:

As a community who cares about and for all God's children, Covenant Presbyterian Church has developed a handbook to direct volunteers and staff who work with our nursery:

Covenant Presbyterian Church will provide a clean, safe and nurturing environment for children in our nursery.

The Nursery hours begin a half-hour prior to the beginning of Sunday morning services, year round. See church calendar for service times each season. The Nursery will close after the Sunday morning service ends.

Nursery care is available for infants and preschoolers of adults attending Sunday morning seminars. Parents are asked to call the church office weekdays at 570 346 6400 to request Sunday morning care.

Children from birth to age 6 are welcome in the nursery during worship. However, parents are encouraged to bring their children to worship. Ushers can provide them with worship aids.

Nursery Session Content

Infants and small children learn through their experiences of people and places. Our nursery workers model kindness, compassion and concern in their interaction with our children. Simple values such as sharing, non-violence, and thankfulness are underlined when children play, have snack or do any other basic routine in the nursery. Children learn to know and trust God when they experience church as a safe and welcoming place. Each session follows a set routine, such as: **Welcome Time; Arrival Activities (play); Snack (Prayer) ; Potty Break; *Enrichment and Clean-up**

* Children with special needs or very young should be involved, as they are able. Enrichment consists of simple lessons, stories and activities that help kids grow in faith.

General Guidelines

Contact and Emergency Information- All parents are to fill out a 'Contact and Emergency Information Form' before their child is to be left in nursery. All information about the children in our program shall remain confidential unless it is determined that harm may come to the child.

Child Abuse Prevention

Covenant Presbyterian Church is committed to preventing Child Abuse and has adopted policies and procedures to that end. All staff and volunteers are screened- adults undergo background checks.

Health and Safety

Age limits - Only children of the appropriate ages can be allowed in the nursery rooms. (Birth to age 6) Parents are welcome in nursery at all times.

Illness policy – Only children free of fever, diarrhea and contagious rashes should attend nursery. If a child is visibly ill, the parents should be contacted immediately.

Food -

- Proper hand washing, food preparation and waste disposal procedures will be practiced at all times.
- Our nursery is a **peanut and nut free area**--for specific children with allergies who utilize our facility as well as for general recognition of this health concern.
- Snacks will be provided during nursery. Nursery staff should review a new child's form regarding special dietary needs. Staff should encourage parents to label bottles, cups or snacks, if they are brought to the nursery.

Diapering- **Uniform diapering procedures help maintain a clean facility.**

Clean up and Departure-

Cleanliness procedures will be done at the end of each nursery session- wiping tabletops and vacuuming. Also, toys shall be put away in their places (and put in sink if in need of sanitizing).

Emergency Procedures

Emergency procedures are posted in each room. Evacuation cribs are in first nursery room by the elevator. In case of evacuation, staff will take children out safest exit and meet parents in the far back area of large parking lot (Olive street). Parents shall be informed of meeting spot. A telephone is available in the back Toddler Room and office and is for emergency use only. A First Aid kit is located in the marked cabinet in the nursery office.