

Nursery Parent Guide

Introduction

The nursery staff welcomes you and your child to Grace Church. Our nursery ministry supports parents by providing for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of your children in a Christ-centered environment as you worship.

Age

Our infant nursery is for babies from birth through 2 years of age (prior to October 1st of any given year).

Staff

The staff is made up of two paid nursery attendants who are skilled at creating a joyful, healthy, and secure environment. We play with, hold, rock, sing, and read to your little one. On occasion, we will utilize volunteers from Grace who are familiar with nursery procedures.

If you are a parent or if you feel God's call for you to volunteer in this Children's Ministry, we would love for you to join us. Please let one of our nursery staff know of your interest and they will inform our Nursery Coordinator.

Snacks

Age appropriate snacks will be provided. If there is anything your child should not have please tell a staff member and make a note of it on the sign-in book.

Nursery Procedures

We ask that you sign your children into the nursery each Sunday. Please indicate in the sign-in book if your child is staying for more than one service and any information we may need while caring for your child, such as allergies, favorite comfort items, or feeding times. We utilize a silent pager system and will hand you a pager as you exit the nursery. We will page you (you will feel the pager vibrate) if your child needs you. If requested, we can also send you a page letting you know your child is doing well in our nursery. All nursery staff also wear name tags for identification. Please be sure to label all diaper bags and cups.

After your third visit we ask that you complete a "We Care" card for our staff's information. Blank cards are located on the sign-in table. Please complete it and give it to a member of the nursery staff.

When you pick up your child, please see a staff member to return your pager, retrieve your child's diaper bag, and check on your child's well-being during his or her time in the nursery.

Please pick up your child immediately following the worship service. We appreciate this courtesy to our staff.

Separation Issues in the Nursery

Your child may cry when he or she is left in the nursery. This reaction is normal and a healthy show of preference for parents. The child's fussing usually stops within a few minutes and becomes less common with regular attendance. We will page you if your child continues to cry for 10 minutes, is especially vocal or upset, or you indicate that you would like to be paged sooner. Feel free to check on your child during the service, but know that seeing a caregiver often causes the child to start fussing again.

Child Safety

Here at Grace we strive to ensure that each and every child is safe and feels secure. We encourage consistency in the adults working with the children, use a sign-in system for our classes, employ a pager system in the nursery, and have our adults complete a screening process and training classes. We are dependent upon parents to utilize the systems we have developed and let us know of any special circumstances or incidents. Please feel free to discuss any concerns with our staff.

Illness

We ask that you keep your child home if he or she shows any of the following symptoms:

- Child had an oral temperature above 100
- Child has diarrhea or vomiting.
- Child has an undiagnosed rash, pink eye, or head lice.
- Child has excessive nasal congestion or uncontrollable cough.