

Welcome

We welcome you and your children to our church's nursery/childcare area. It is the goal of our Religious Education program to provide a safe, comfortable and nurturing environment for your children. We also want you to feel secure about your children's well being while you attend services here. We feel that in order to accomplish this goal we need to provide you, the parent, with the information you need to know about our nursery/childcare program.

Please take the time to read the nursery/childcare information in this pamphlet. It will answer most of your questions as well as introduce you to the policies that we have put in place to safe guard all of the young children we care for. Your understanding and cooperation are deeply appreciated.

Thank you!

Nursery/Childcare Area Polices

This is a quick rundown of the policies that we have adopted to provide a safe environment for your children. Each entry in the Quick List will have a more detailed explanation in the pamphlet.

Quick List!

Nursery/childcare is available for infants and toddlers, age 0 up to age 3 during the Sunday School year and children up to age 5 will be accepted throughout the summer months. Children above these ages are not allowed in the nursery/childcare area without permission.

The nursery is regularly available during all Sunday services.

There will be a minimum of two caregivers in the nursery/childcare area at all times. Our main nursery caretaker is CPR certified and 1st Aid trained and all adults are required to undergo and pass a National FBI Criminal Records Check.

Parents are required to sign in and out when dropping off and picking up their children. Parents will be given a silent pager which will vibrate to notify them if their child needs them for any reason.

Nursery staff will not accept children that are currently ill, or have been ill within the last 24 hours.

Children's hands will be cleaned with hand wipes upon entering the nursery area and toys are cleaned regularly to prevent the spread of germs.

A first aid kit is available in the nursery/childcare area in case it is ever needed.

Nursery/childcare staff will not change any child's diaper.

Nursery/childcare staff will not give medication to children.

Food or drink may not be brought into the nursery. The nursery staff will serve only water and non-allergenic foods.

If a child exhibits aggressive behavior towards another child and inflicts physical harm; i.e. biting, hitting, the parent of the aggressor will be notified and asked to remove that child from the child care area immediately.



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Nursery/Childcare Information for Parents



Comments, Questions and Concerns

Please feel free to contact Heather Helger, the Director of Children and Youth to address any and all comments, questions and/or concerns you may have regarding the Nursery/Childcare program. We welcome your input and are happy to have the chance to address any concerns or answer any questions you may have. You can reach Heather by calling the church office (401) 635-8472 or by e-mail: ssfaithful@ucc.necoxmail.com

Jesus loves little children and we do too!

Age of Care

For safety reasons, children above the nursery age are not allowed to enter the nursery/childcare area without permission. Older children do not always understand the care and maintenance of a room for small children and infants.

During the Summer months (mid-May to mid-September), when Sunday School is not in session, please refrain from using the nursery/childcare staff as babysitters for older children (6 and up) while you attend the church service. The nursery is not staffed at an appropriate level to ensure the safety or quality of care for older children and trying to do so will interfere with care of the younger children.

Nursery Hours

Nursery/childcare is provided every Sunday throughout the year during the worship service. The nursery will open ~10 minutes prior to the beginning of the church service and will promptly close a few minutes after the service is over. Please pick up your children after the service, do not leave them there for care during coffee hour.

Nursery/childcare may also be available for other special services/occasions. Announcements of those occasions will note the availability of care.

Staffing

Under NO circumstances will the children be left alone in the nursery for ANY amount of time.

It is our policy that two adults be present the nursery/childcare area. If we cannot meet this criteria the nursery will be closed that day. Should we not be able to care for your child, we encourage the use of the vestry where you and your child may enjoy the service together. Please note, this is not a frequent occurrence and the Director of Children and Youth or one or more of our other volunteers are generally available.

There should also be no more than eight children at a time in the nursery/childcare area, so that there is one adult to every four children. Once we reach our caregiver to child ratio, we will no longer be able to accept children, unless another staff or volunteer is available to help out.

Staff Qualifications

Sharon, the main nursery caregiver is CPR/First Aid Trained. Paid nursery workers over the age of 18 undergo a National FBI Criminal Records Check as well.

Nursery Caregivers:

Our head nursery caregiver is Sharon Sheldon. Please do not let Sharon's quiet demeanor deter you from leaving your child(ren) in the nursery/childcare area. Sharon is highly qualified and has over 17 years of childcare experience. A second caregiver will also always be present, per our Safe Church Policy. Your children will be well cared for by our nursery staff.

Nursery Volunteers

Since we only have one full time staffed position in the nursery/childcare area during the Sunday School year (mid-September to mid-May), all parents of infants or toddlers (Dad's too) may be asked to volunteer to assist in the nursery for one month's services by the Director of Children and Youth. If your child is frequently cared for in the nursery, we very much appreciate it if you offer to help out.

Drop Off and Pick Up

There will be a sign-in/-out sheet at the front of the nursery. Please make sure you fill this out. In addition to you and your child's name, please list any food allergies or other special attention your child may require.

Upon drop-off parents will be given a silent pager which will vibrate to notify them if their child needs them for any reason. Please be sure to return this pager when picking up your child after the service.

Please try to have one parent drop off the child, also the same person who drops off the child should also pick up the child. This will help keep the area clear and avoid congestion and/or confusion.

Please make sure that you are wearing your nametag when you pick up your child and that you sign your child out on the sign-in/-out sheet. Also please remember to return your pager.

Children will be released only to a properly identified and preauthorized adult.

It is common for children in the nursery to suffer from separation anxiety. Parents: If you are not a volunteer in the nursery, please exit quickly once your child has been properly checked in. Too many big feet can leave too little room for the little feet. Please tell your child "good-bye" when leaving him or her in our care. It is common for children to cry when you leave. Normally, the children will calm down in just a few minutes. If your child continues to be upset for 10 minutes (or sooner by parent's request) with no sign of calming down, a nursery staff member will buzz you.

Please feel free to peek in on your child during the service! We do ask that you try to not be noticed by the children when you do so as it may cause them to become upset when you don't come in to play with them.

Illness

If your child becomes ill or injured during the service, one of the nursery/childcare staff will buzz you during the service.

For the health and safety of all children, nursery/childcare staff and the peace of mind of our children's parents, children that have had the following symptoms within the last 24 hours will not be accepted:

- Fever
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Runny nose with green or yellow mucus discharge
- Communicable eye infections, conjunctivitis (pink-eye)
- Contagious skin rash
- Cough, croup (except in the case of allergy)
- Any symptom of usual childhood disease
- Use of antibiotics for 24 hours or less.

Environment

Children's hands will be cleaned with hand wipes upon entering the nursery area.

Toys are sanitized regularly to prevent the spread of germs.

A first aid kit is available in the nursery/childcare area in case it is ever needed.

Diaper/Toileting Policy

Please make sure your child has a clean diaper or uses the bathroom before entering the nursery/childcare area.

Nursery staff will not change any child's diaper. If a child needs a diaper change a nursery staff member will buzz you. A baby changing station is located in the bathroom for your convenience.

Children who need to use the bathroom while in the nursery/childcare area will be escorted to the bathroom. We promote independent toileting for all children. Children will be supervised by a staff member while in the bathroom area, but the staff will respect the child's privacy as much as possible. Doors will be left partially open at all times, no bathroom door shall be fully closed when a staff person and child are inside the bathroom together. Children will be assisted as little as possible by staff.

Staff will ensure that children wash their hands thoroughly after toileting, with liquid soap and running water. Teachers will wash hands thoroughly with liquid soap and running water after assisting children with toileting and will use individual paper towels to dry hands.

Teachers will wear disposable latex gloves when coming in contact with bodily fluids.

Medication

Since our services are short we feel there is no need for our nursery staff to dispense any type of medication to children. If your child requires medication, be sure to give it to them yourself prior to dropping them off in the nursery or please come to the nursery at the appropriate time to administer it yourself.

Feeding

Food allergies are one of our top concerns. Please do not bring a snack for your child, or tell your child that there is a snack for them in their essentials bag. Nursery staff will generally not provide a snack for your child, but generally plain goldfish crackers or another alternative such as rice cakes, Cheerios, oyster or animal crackers will be available if needed.

If your child has food allergies, please note that on the sign-in sheet. For the safety of your child, we also ask that you specifically tell one of the nursery staff that your child has food allergies so that all nursery staff will be aware. Your child's nametag will have a mark reminding staff of this. Should your child need a snack other than the ones provided by the nursery staff, we would allow your substitution.

Essentials Bags

Essentials bags (diapers, clothing, etc.) need to be clearly labeled with the name of the parent or child. Masking tape and pens will be available in the nursery. If you have any special items that your child may need, please point them out to the nursery staff.

Discipline

If a child exhibits aggressive behavior towards another child and inflicts physical harm; i.e. biting, hitting, the parent of the aggressor will be notified and asked to remove that child from the child care area immediately.