

First Baptist Church  
Kissimmee, Florida

# Preschool Ministry

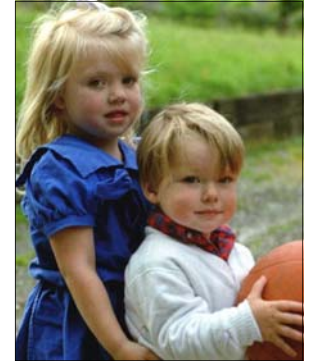


"Behold, children are a gift of the Lord"

Proverbs 127:3

1700 N. John Young Parkway

(407) 847-3138



Dear Parents,

Every child is a unique and precious gift from God. Parents have been given the special privilege of teaching children to know and love God.

The teachers in the preschool ministry of First Baptist Church, accept the joint responsibility with the home to ensure the spiritual nurturing of the little one. Our goals include providing your child with the physical care and spiritual teaching that will build the foundation for a future commitment to Christ

The Preschool Committee has developed standards for the preschool ministry of our church. This booklet was designed to help you and your church work together for the best for your child. If you have any questions, please feel free to direct them to the minister to preschool/children or the Preschool Committee.

As you bring your child to a program in our preschool ministry, you can be confident that he (she) is being cared for, loved, prayed for and taught. It is our heart's desire to help you mold your child's life in the image of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,

Pastor Tim Wilder

## **the purpose of our preschool ministry is to help each child . . .**

- \* associate God, Jesus and the Bible with happy feelings; to make progress in solving problems, sharing and expressing himself;
- \* to know that the Bible is the special book that tells about God and Jesus;
- \* to think of church as my church - a happy place to be; and to be thinking of others and adjusting to their interests.

These objectives and concepts are taught through the use of activity areas art, blocks, books, pictures, dramatic play, music, natural world and puzzles.

## **preparing your preschooler to be at church**

1. Label all items belonging to a preschooler, (diaper bag/tote bag, pacifier, bottle/beverage container, extra clothing, etc.) The teacher will label all items that are not plainly marked.
2. When packing the diaper bag please include the following items:
  - \* Baby's bottles (plastic), completely prepared with instructions you think the baby will need, plus an extra bottle.
  - \* Disposable diapers, wipes (a sufficient amount).
  - \* A complete change of clothing.
  - \* Sipper cups for those who need them.
3. Please discourage your preschooler from bring chewing gum, candy, books or personal toys into the room. Resources are available and activities are planned for your child when they come to church.

*Continued . . .*

## **preparing your preschoolers to be at church**

4. Tell the teacher if your preschooler is potty training and bring extra clothing, labeled with his name.
5. Dress your preschooler in comfortable, loose-lifting, machine washable clothing that will not restrict free movement.
6. Discuss with your preschooler that you are going to church and tell her about the teachers who love her and the happy time they'll have. This will better prepare her for separation from you when you arrive at church.

## **when you arrive at church**

- \* Knock quietly on the door to your preschooler's room and wait patiently. A teacher will greet you. This is requested for safety and hygiene for the preschoolers, and to promote harmony within the class. We ask that you do not enter the room. Allow the teacher to take your preschooler into the room. When a preschooler enters a room, teaching begins, therefore we ask that you do not linger.
- \* Upon leaving your preschooler, you will be given a card with a number. A matching name tag with the same number will be placed on your preschooler. A name tag will also be placed on their belongings if they are not plainly labeled. You will need to wait at the closed door for the teacher to prepare the card after she has received your preschooler. Only an adult with the matching card will be able to pick up your preschooler. Minor aged siblings will not be able to pick up a preschooler.
- \* The number on the card will be used to page you during the worship services (The silent pager is located on the wall on each side of the choir above the stage). Your preschooler's number will appear in red digital numbers should you be needed. If you see your number, please come immediately to your preschooler's room. Room location information will be used to reach you if you are in another class and you are needed to assist with your preschooler.

*Continued . . .*

## when you arrive at church continued . . .

\* A preschooler should never be left in any preschool room unless there is a teacher there to receive him. The parent should stay with the preschooler until a teacher arrives, *Please do not bring your preschooler more than fifteen early for any scheduled program.* Example: 9:00 A.M. for the 9:15 A.M.

\* No one other than a designated preschool worker or parent is to care for any preschooler while in the preschool area. Children older than preschool age are not permitted inside any preschool room at any time.

- Never slip away from your child. Tell him in a kind, firm voice that you are leaving and will be back soon. You will be notified if your preschooler seems upset and unable to adjust to the classroom routine.
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\* During the session or between sessions, parents and relatives are encouraged to avoid coming to the door to check on their preschooler. Such visits often causes the preschoolers to be disturbed or upset by changes in the routine.

\* To reduce congestion in the halls, we ask that only one parent bring a preschooler to the room and that only one parent call for the preschooler at the conclusion. Your child will be looking for you! Knock quietly on the door, and a teacher will help you.

*Continued . . .*

## health

In order to insure a safe, healthy environment for our preschoolers, we request that parents take responsibility for making sure their child is well before coming to church

Please see the recommendation of the Committee on Control of Infectious Diseases of the American Academy of Pediatrics inserted in this booklet. A child who has any of the symptoms listed should stay at home.

We ask that a preschooler be free of fever for 24 hours after contagious disease before coming to church. If your child is sick, they will be more comfortable at home. Please do not bring your child if they have a green or yellow runny nose. Antibiotics often take 48 hours to begin to eliminate infection. In any case, please use the above symptoms to decide when to keep your child at home. When in doubt, please apply the Golden Rule. Your cooperation is essential to the well-being of your child and other children at First Baptist Church.

Preschoolers who become ill during a church activity will be isolated and the parents will be contacted to pick up the child immediately. If your preschooler does contract a childhood disease following a session in the preschool area, please inform the minister to preschool/children or a member of the Preschool Committee so that they may inform other parents to take preventive care.

Bed linens are never used for more than one preschooler and all the beds are wiped before each use with a non-residual disinfectant. Toys are also disinfected.



## **your preschoolers information**

A Child Information Sheet should be filled out on each preschooler. Please be sure the teacher gets complete information. The information will help teachers better care for your preschooler. We need to know where you can be found while we have your preschooler. Special needs of your preschooler should also be indicated. A card containing baby's name, schedule and other information will be placed on each baby's bed.

## **special needs**

Parents having preschoolers with special needs will want to contact the church office to set up an appointment to meet with the minister to preschool/children and appropriate preschool teachers. With special advanced planning between parents and care givers, we can provide a positive experience for nearly every child.



## **allergies and other health issues**

Any serious allergies or health problems should be reported to the preschooler's teacher, minister to preschool/children or a member of the Preschool Committee. Preschool teachers and child care



## **Food**

Preschoolers should be properly fed before coming to church.

Infants will be fed formula, juice, milk or water as provided in plastic bottles. Time and circumstances do not allow for spoon feeding. To avoid mistakes, formulas and juice should be already prepared by the parent. arid marked with preschooler's name. If it is absolutely necessary for your baby to be spoon fed at church, we ask that a parent come feed their baby in a separate area.

One year olds and older are regularly served saltine crackers.

Occasionally, tasting of other foods is done as a part of a learning activity. Parents are asked to notify the teacher in the room if their preschooler has any allergies or peculiarities of feeding.

## **preschool facility availability**

The preschool facilities will be open for all regular services of the church. The preschool classes will be used for church functions only. Parents must be attending a church function in order to leave their preschooler during a scheduled activity.

The preschool facilities will be open 15 (fifteen) minutes before each scheduled activity and will be closed after the last preschooler has been picked up by a responsible adult. Parents are requested to call for their preschooler immediately after the scheduled activity.

In the best interest of the preschooler, the preschool facilities will be open a maximum of four (4) hours and remain open no later than 9:00 P.M. for any occasion.

Any group desiring child care or the use of the preschool facilities must contact the minister to preschool/children..



### **our materials**

All preschool classes use LifeWay curriculum which is Bible based and age appropriate.

Building a biblical foundation in even the youngest of children is important! Our curriculum includes Bible study guides with weekly teaching suggestions, leadership helps and a teaching plan with options for each age group. The teachers also receive preschool resource packs each quarter to enhance teaching. These packs include books, door posters, puzzles, games, pictures and more.



The parents are involved each week in the church's Sunday School teaching ministry to their preschoolers by receiving a weekly take home leaflet to help guide parents in Bible related teaching at home that continues the lesson presented in Sunday School. Other tools that are utilized in providing a quality teaching program for preschoolers are the age appropriate music/activity CD's teaching training videos, and age group study books



### **definitions & opportunities**

**Preschooler** . . . infant through kindergarten age

**Sunday School** . . . Bible teaching for birth - kindergarten - 8:45 A.M. 10:00 A.M. & 11:15 A.M. on Sunday mornings while parents attend adult Sunday School classes, serve as Sunday School leaders and attend worship service.

### **opportunities**

**Little Treble Makers** . . . preschool choir meets at 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday evenings, for ages 3 - kindergarten.

**Mission Friends** . . . meets at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday evenings, for ages 3 - kindergarten.

If you have questions regarding any of the policies or procedures written in this handbook, please don't hesitate to contact the minister to preschool/children by calling the church office at 407 847-3138. Any situations not expressly covered by these policies shall be referred to the Preschool Committee for action.

These guidelines are in place to help ensure your preschooler has a positive experience at First Baptist Church.



### to parents . . .that all important decision

Farmers are careful not just with the quality of their seed, but also with the way they plant their seed.

Jesus had a seed to plant In Matthew 13:3-23, Jesus told a story about the seed and the soil where it was sown. The seed in Jesus' story is God's love. We are the soil. What kind of soil are you? Have you prepared your heart to accept that seed? Has the seed taken root and begun to grow in your life?

God loved us so much that, "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Christ took the punishment for our sin. Have you accepted God's love by asking Jesus to forgive you for your sins? Have you prayed and asked Jesus to be your Savior? If not, do it today.

Be good soil for God's seed to take root in you. Help it grow. Talk with your child's teacher or a Christian friend to learn more about growing in God's love.

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### preschool teachers, etc . . .

- \* All Bible study teachers are professing Christians and members of this church.
- \* At least two teachers shall be present when a preschool area is used.
- \* A teacher will be in the room at all times. Preschoolers are never to be left alone.
- \* Teachers wash their hands before handling babies, food and after each contact with runny noses and soiled diapers.
- \* Teachers are expected to arrive 15 minutes prior to each function.
- \* At the close of the session, teachers put away ALL materials, (food, books, puzzles, blocks, pictures and art materials).
- \* All child care employees will be secured by the minister to preschool/children and will be under her supervision.
- \* Teachers need to notify the appropriate persons when they will be absent, giving as much advance notice as possible.
- \* Teacher's children need to be in their appropriate classes during all sessions.
- \* Babies and one year olds are transferred to older classes within the preschool division as they mature and develop the ability to adjust to the older group and as space is available. Older preschoolers are in classes according to their date of birth. Transfers in these classes take effect at promotion time.

