



Early Steps Preschool Ministry Policies for Parents

“From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures,
which are able to make you wise for salvation
through faith in Christ Jesus.”
II Timothy 3:15



“Whoever
welcomes
one of these
little children
in my name
welcomes me...”

Mark 9:37

September 2009
First Baptist Church of St. Marys
102 West Weed Street
St. Marys, GA 31558
912.882.4250

Preschool Ministry Policy for Parents

General Information

The preschool facilities are for children from birth through age five years (Kindergarten).

Preschool teachers will be ready to receive your child no earlier than 9:00 A.M. If you arrive prior to 9:00 A.M., we ask that you remain in the room with your child until the teacher is ready to begin class. Preschoolers are never to be left alone in a classroom.

When leaving your child at the door, never slip away suddenly! Tell your child that you are leaving for a little while and that you will be back. Please do not stand at the door where he or she can see you. Leave promptly; and be assured that if your little one continues to cry for longer than fifteen minutes, we will either beep you or a teacher will come for you. Most of the time, the child will calm down shortly after the parent leaves.

If you wish to check on your child between services, please do so discreetly. If your child sees you, the teaching session will be disrupted and your preschooler will be upset.

Mom and Dad: Please pick up your child immediately after the worship service. It is important to fellowship with other members of our church family, but please do so after picking up your child. Remember that your preschooler watches as others are picked up. Sometimes he or she will become fearful that he or she has been forgotten.

To avoid congestion in the hallways, only one parent should pick up their preschooler.

ALL PERSONAL ITEMS BROUGHT TO THE PRESCHOOL DEPARTMENT MUST BE LABELED.

NOTIFY YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER OF ANY ALLERGIES YOUR CHILD MAY HAVE. (An Information Sheet needs to be completed and returned to the teacher for each child.)

Children older than preschool age will not be permitted in the preschool classrooms. (Exceptions will be made only by the Preschool Ministry Director.)

Children are not to be left in the preschool department for any reason other than a First Baptist St. Marys function. Sunday night, Tuesday, and Wednesday nursery is only provided for parents participating in church activities.

Illness

For the protection of your child, other children, and the teachers, please do not bring a child to church who appears to be ill. Children with the following symptoms or illnesses will not be admitted to the preschool department.

Fever now or within the past 24 hours

Vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours

Strep infection (O.K. after antibiotics for 24 hours and free of fever for 24 hours.)

Common cold (from onset of symptoms until child is without fever and nasal drainage is clear in color).

Croup or deep cough

Chicken Pox

Any unexplained rash

Impetigo (Must be covered and on medicine for 24 hours.)

Ringworm (Must be covered and on medicine for 24 hours.)

Pink Eye

Head lice

Teachers will not administer any medication.

Children who have been ill must be free of fever for 24 hours before returning to the preschool department.

If your preschooler should develop a fever or other symptom of illness, he or she will be removed from the classroom and you will be contacted right away.

If your child has a physical condition, which may require special interventions, please notify the Preschool Ministry Director before bringing your child to the church so that needed arrangements can be made.

Should your child develop a contagious illness such as chicken pox or strep after being at church, please notify the Preschool Ministry Director or the church office, so that other parents may be notified of their child's exposure.

The Preschool Ministry Director reserves the right to decide if a child is ill and should not be admitted to the preschool department.

Safety and Security

Your child's safety and security is important to us. For that reason, we ask that parents abide by the following security procedures.

PARENTS MUST SIGN CHILD IN ON SIGN IN SHEET.

Children in Crib Babies and 1 Year Olds will be issued a beeper. If we should need you to come to the preschool department, your beeper number will be paged. You must return this beeper in order to pick up your child. (Please note: The beeper is designed to alarm if you get more than 1 mile from the church.)

First time visitors with young children will be issued a beeper at the Front Desk and security number for each child. If we should need you to come to the preschool department, your beeper number will be paged. You must return this beeper in order to pick up your child. (Please note: The beeper is designed to alarm if you get more than 1 mile from the church.)

Only a **parent** will be permitted to pick up a child. If someone other than the parent will be picking up your child, it must be noted on the sign in sheet. (This is a security precaution only, with your child's welfare in mind.)

Siblings may not pick up children from the preschool department.

When dropping your child off or picking them up, please remain outside the classroom and allow the teacher to greet you at the door.

If there are special concerns of a legal nature, please notify the teacher and the Preschool Ministry Director.

There will always be at least two workers in every classroom.

The only adults allowed in the preschool classrooms are teachers.
Exception: Moms who need to nurse their babies or comfort a crying child.

The Wheeler Street Children's Ministry Building entrance will be open Sunday morning until 9:45 A.M. After this time the door will be locked and the only entrance into the building will be the main entrance from the educational building.

Promotion

Promotion of preschoolers will take place in the following manner.

Crib Babies will be promoted when they are 12 months of age and walking well.

Children in the 1 Year Class may be promoted midyear if they have a birthday prior to December of the same year.

Two, three, and four year olds will be promoted once a year on promotion Sunday (normally this takes place in August). If your child has a birthday prior to promotion Sunday, he or she will remain in his or her present class until promotion. (Exceptions will be made only by the Preschool Ministry Director.)

What to Bring For Your Child

Infants through Two Years

- A. Diaper bag containing extra diapers, wipes, formula bottles, a change of clothing, and a plastic bag. (Change of clothing is very important.)
 2. Children in the 1 & 2 Year Old classes may bring a sippy cup, but the cup must be labeled with the child's name.
- If your child has a favorite comfort object that is needed, please bring that as well (labeled).

What Not to Bring

Do not bring toys from home. Appropriate toys will be provided which relate to the Bible story for the week.

Do not bring snacks from home. A snack is usually provided. Exception: Children with allergies or special medical needs may have a snack brought from home.

Do not bring sippy cups for children in Three Year Olds-Kindergarten classes. Children in these classes will be given juice or water at snack time in a regular cup.