



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS OF NURSERY AGE CHILDREN

What is our purpose for having Child Protection Policies? We have been called to care for our children and to honor the name of Christ. To this end, these policies have been developed to ensure a safe, loving environment where Jesus is glorified and enjoyed by all His people. While we rely ultimately on the sovereign protection of our Lord, we also recognize that He has called us to exercise wisdom and prudence in our care for His children.

First Presbyterian Church provides a nursery to allow parents the freedom to worship, confident that their children are well cared for, are in a loving environment and are made to feel secure. The Nursery Committee is responsible for setting the policies and procedures of the nursery, under Session approval. The Nursery Committee is responsible for the oversight of the nursery to the extent that they ensure that the nursery policies are in fact implemented. The Nursery Committee is comprised of members of the congregation who are in good standing and have attended the Child Protection Class offered by the church. We ask that parents with children four and older keep their children with them for the full morning worship.

First Presbyterian's nursery provides care for children from birth through three years of age. The nursery will be open 15 minutes prior to the beginning of church. Children should not be left in the nursery with only one attendant present. Parents should wait until there are two attendants present before leaving the child.

On Sunday mornings and evenings a security system will be used to ensure children are released only to their parents or an authorized adult. Each child will receive a three-part sticker with a unique identification number. This sticker consists of one sticker that goes on the child's back with information about the child, one sticker for the child's bag and a receipt with the identification number that the parent will turn in when they pick their child up from the nursery. There will be a sign in sheet for each nursery room and the security number will be recorded by the child's name on the nursery sign in sheet. Any serious allergies, medical problems, or feeding/sleeping difficulties should be listed on this sticker and reported to the nursery attendant when the child is dropped off. These should also be written on the initial attendance record of the child for future reference by workers.

At the time the parent leaves the child with the attendant, the parent will receive a pager. The parent will be notified immediately by the nursery if the child shows signs of illness or cannot be comforted within 10 minutes. Nursery staff are not permitted to administer medication to any child.

All of the child's belongings need to be marked with the child's name. Bottles brought by parents will be given to children according to the parent's instructions. Water, Goldfish and animal crackers may be served to crawlers and toddlers during the worship service.

Parents and others are requested not to visit children during the time the children are in the nursery. This can cause unnecessary readjustment for the child and can upset other children. If a parent is uneasy about their child, they may come to the door and ask the attendant how the child is doing. The doors to the toddler nursery and infant nursery are half doors with the top half open at all times so you may peek at your child if necessary. Please do not let your child see you.

Nursing mothers are welcome anytime to our private nursing/crib room.

Some of our attendants are new and will not recognize which child goes with which parent. So, parents, please wait at the doors for your child to be brought to you. Parents are

asked not to enter the rooms because of congestion and distraction of attendants. Parents are encouraged to pick up their children no later than 11:45 a.m. in the morning and 7:15 in the evening. A child will only be released to their parents, no siblings. Parents will return the security receipt with the pager as they pick up their child/children.

All nursery employees will have a background check in their personnel files and will have attended our Child Protection Class. All church volunteers will have also attended the Child Protection Class. No one is permitted to attend to the children that has not had the class. A list of qualified volunteers is in the church office.

Only nursery employees will change diapers in the presence of another volunteer or employee. The changing tables are located in the nursery room. For our toddlers, our new facilities have been modified with a children size commode and sink. The attendant or volunteer will stand outside the bathroom door with the door slightly opened in case the child needs assistance. If the child needs assistance, then two adults will assist. At no time will an attendant or volunteer be in the bathroom alone with the child. There is also a changing table in the toddler nursery in case of accidents. Above each changing table, there will be posted the nursery's instructions in diapering in order to assure the changing area is kept clean as possible. Each attendant will wear disposable gloves and the area completely disinfected after each changing.

If a parent volunteer wishes to spank their own child, then they need to do so out of the nursery rooms to avoid the appearance of nursery staff spanking the children, and to prevent frightening the other children.

Wellness Policy

You have a big role in keeping our nursery a healthy place to bring your child. If you child is not well, please refrain from bringing them to the nursery.

A well child has:

- a. No fever greater than 99.6 degrees currently or for the last 24 hours.
- b. No vomiting or diarrhea currently or for the last 24 hours.
- c. No persistent cough.
- d. No unexplained rashes.
- e. No skin infections (impetigo, boils, ringworm, etc.)
- f. No childhood diseases such as Measles/Mumps/Chicken Pox, Mumps, Measles, Rubella, Pertussis, Scarlet Fever.
- g. No eye infections.
- h. No runny nose that appears green or yellow.

If your child currently has any of the above symptoms, we will not be able to accept them into the nursery. If a child develops any of the above symptoms while in our care, we will ask you to come and get them.

If at any time a parent wishes to see our Nursery Policy for Nursery Attendants, it will be made available.

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