

MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

The Caring Place



Nursery Ministries

Parent Handbook

Reverend Leroy Franklin, Pastor



Dear Parent:

Welcome to our Nursery Ministries at Mount Calvary Baptist Church. We seek to provide a safe Christian atmosphere for the youngest members of our church family. We hope that our loving care for your child will allow you to participate in the multitude of opportunities available here at Mount Calvary.

We believe that our children are God's greatest gift! Nursery Ministries provides special care to infants and toddlers that contributes to their well being and complements and strengthens the Christian nurture the child experiences at home. We strive to help your child build trusting relationships and feel a sense of belonging by reaching out in love and understanding.

We hope this handbook will convey our commitment to provide a safe, caring environment through trained caregivers and a security system that ensures your child's safety. Please assist us in reaching this goal by taking time to review and understand our policies. If you have any questions or suggestions, we hope you will call us.

Once again, welcome! We look forward to serving the needs of your family.

Yours in service,

Clarence Swearingen, Youth Minister
Pat Littlejohn, Minister of Education
Rev. Leroy Franklin, Pastor



Mission Statement

The Bible tells us that as a child, "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52).

It is the mission of the Nursery Ministries to assist children ages 6 months to 5 years to grow in the same ways Jesus grew: **mentally** (in wisdom), **physically** (in stature), **spiritually** (in favor with God), and **socially** (in favor with men). We will provide a safe secure environment, age appropriate curriculum and loving caregivers, while providing parents and guardians the opportunity to experience and develop their own spiritual needs.



Purpose

To help each child feel comfortable and special

To help each child feel secure with adults who love and care for him/her

To help each child learn to play and share with other children

To help each child have positive feelings about coming to church

To encourage the active participation of parents in worship, Bible study and other activities



Caregiver Expectations

1. If you are unable to serve at your scheduled time, please call Clarence Swearngen as soon as you know. It is very difficult to find someone to substitute on Sunday morning.
2. Arrive at 10:00. Everything goes smoother when the adults are in the room ready for the children's arrival.
3. Dress comfortably. Wear low-heeled shoes.
4. Read the nursery instructions on the bulletin board for information about checking in children, changing diapers and feeding.
5. Use the curriculum provided.
6. Be familiar with safety procedures.
7. Use the children's names frequently throughout the session.
8. Remain in the room until all children have been picked up.
9. Straighten the room before leaving. Custodians will clean thoroughly on Monday or the day after each event.
10. Take time to read the articles included in this handbook.

Health Policies

For the protection of your child and the other children, parents are requested not to bring a child who appears to be ill. A child should not be placed in the nursery when any of the following exists:

Fever, currently or within previous 24 hours

Vomiting

Significant, persistent nasal drainage which is green or yellow in color

Any symptom of a childhood disease

Common cold

Sore throat

Any unexplained rash

Any skin infection

Pink eye or other eye infection

We will not administer any medication.

If the child develops a fever or other symptoms of illness while in the nursery, he/she will be separated from other children and the parents will be contacted to take the child home.

If your child has a physical condition which may require specialized intervention or precaution, please contact the Youth Minister at 524-5912.

If your child develops an infectious disease (chicken pox, etc.) after he/she has been in the nursery, please contact the Youth Minister so that we can inform the parents of the other children.



Classroom Management

The behavior of children while in the nursery will be managed in a manner that will protect their self-esteem and that will encourage children's independence, creativity and ability to be nurtured in the growing knowledge of God's love.

Every attempt will be made to sooth a crying infant or child. In the event an infant or child cries inconsolably, the parent will be notified to assist.

Children are expected to follow the directions given by their caregiver. However, we realize that children will have days when they are less cooperative than others. Any correction given will be done in a positive manner. Time-out principles will be implemented if the child continues to have behavior concerns. Parents are expected to encourage their children to follow directions given by a caregiver. The parent will be contacted if any child refuses to comply with the caregiver's direction.

Hints for Success

Accompany your child to the nursery. Give your child a special hug and kiss. Tell your child you will see him/her after worship or the special event.

Then leave. Staying in the nursery will only prolong his/her unhappiness when you leave. Crying is natural for most preschoolers when they are initially left in a situation without a parent. We will do our best to greet you and your child at the nursery door and immediately begin to involve him/her in the day's activities.

Please make sure you sign the attendance sheet each time you bring your child to the nursery. Please discuss any special instructions with the caregiver (Remember to fill out the appropriate form). Also let us know if someone other than yourself will pick your child up.

Be sure to label all of your child's belongings clearly.