

Nursery and Childcare Information

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Mark 10:14

Children are our special responsibility - entrusted to our care by God. It is the mission of our nursery and childcare staff here at Central United Methodist Church to provide a place where our young disciples are loved, nurtured, and cared for. In the nursery, infants and toddlers have their first introduction to their church home. Our childcare programs provide a safe, enjoyable environment for preschool and school aged children. They learn from loving caregivers what Jesus taught the children: God loves you!

SUNDAYS: AGES AND ROOMS

Central United Methodist Church provides a nursery, located downstairs in the east wing, which provides care for children ages 6 weeks to 3 years of age.

When a child turns 3 years old the nursery supervisor and/or children's ministry director will have a conversation with their grown-ups about transitioning to preschool Sunday school and church services.

AVAILABILITY

The nursery is available from 8:00 am-12:00 pm each Sunday morning for infants and toddlers. It is also open 5:45 pm -7:45 pm during Wednesday Nite Live. If nursery care is required for other meetings or events please contact the director of children's ministries.

DROP OFF AND PICKUP

1. Please hand your child to a nursery teacher and sign them in on the sheet provided with ALL information (if you are unsure of room numbers please let nursery staff know)
2. We ask that you do not enter the classrooms. We understand that occasionally a child will need to be reassured by you and you will need to come in. However, the nursery staff is better able to ensure the safety of children if only those working are in the classrooms.
3. It is best to leave quickly after drop off, consistency is key. The more they are exposed to the nursery and staff, the more comfortable your child will be. If your child starts to cry please let the teacher know how long to wait to contact you.
4. We kindly ask that you also provide a bag with a change of clothes, diapers and wipes.
5. If your toddler is potty training we ask that you send them wearing a pull-up or training underwear. If they do have an accident, we will call you to come change them.
6. If your baby requires bottle feeding please make sure the bottles are premade or formula is premeasured.
7. We ask that you please come to get your children immediately following the activity which you attended.

8. When coming for pickup, please wait for the teacher to hand you your child. This will help reduce traffic inside the room and ensure the safety of the little ones.
9. Children will only be released to the parent/guardian unless other arrangements have been made beforehand.

NURSERY WELLNESS

If your child is feeling unwell, they will be more comfortable at home. If your child exhibits **any** of the following symptoms, please do not bring them to the nursery:

- Fever within the last 24 hours
- Diarrhea and/or vomiting within the last 24 hours
- Rash not associated with diapering, heat or allergies
- Discharge from the nose that is not clear in color

If your child exhibits any of these symptoms while in the nursery you will be notified to pick them up. Your cooperation in following these guidelines will help to keep the nursery a safe environment. Nursery staff cannot administer medication to children.

INCIDENT REPORTS

If your child is involved in an injury (to themselves or another child) nursery staff will fill out an incident report describing what happened. You will be asked to sign this form and be given a copy to keep.

FOOD & SNACKS

We do not generally serve snacks in the nursery. Please **DO NOT** send snacks with your child, as not every child has snacks.

STAFF

Safe Gatherings is a company that performs background checks and training for all church staff and volunteers. Our Safe Gathering policy states that at least 2 nursery staff will be present with children at all times. Children who are potty training need to come in training underwear or pull ups. If there is an accident, the child's grown up will be contacted to come and change their outfit. This protects the child by preventing a situation where a staff member would be alone with the child.

Our Nursery Supervisor is Misty Smith. Please feel free to contact her with any questions, comments or concerns you may have. You can reach her at 479-936-6106.

FIRE EVACUATION

In the event of a fire in our building the staff will take the children down the Nursery hallway and out the back (North facing) door. There is an emergency evacuation sign at the back of the building at the top of the hill.

