

Child Safety Policy



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Dear Parents,

Northeast Christian Church believes the words from Matthew 19:14, when Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." We also believe that the mission of the church should be a continuation of the mission of Jesus. We want to follow His example by taking children into our care and allowing Jesus to bless them through our church.

In an effort to assure children's safety, we have compiled this Child Safety Policy booklet, which hopefully answers questions you may have concerning our Ministry to your children.

Thank you for allowing us the privilege to continue the ministry of Jesus with your children.

Pastor Frank Foreman

Definitions:



Infant: Up to 1 year of age

Toddler: Child between the ages of 1 and 3

Preschoolers: Age 3 to 5

Minor/Child: A person who has not reached his/her eighteenth birthday

Adult: 18 years of age or older

Volunteer: Anyone who is not paid by the church on a full-time or part-time basis, and is serving in any position involving the supervision or custody of minors or the elderly.

In the event that any allegation of abuse of a child is made, it will be reported immediately to the appropriate police authorities and to the Pastor and Elders. The process will be carefully documented, including dates, times, and content of all conversations pertaining to the alleged abuse.

General Nursery Policies:



- All preschool children (infant through age 5) are welcome in the nursery.
- Children may be dropped off at the nursery as early as 15 minutes before the event.
- When children are in the church nursery, parents or Guardian **must** be on the church premises/location of event.
- Children will be signed in and out and a numbered security band will be placed on the child with a matching band given to the parent/guardian.
- All children must be picked up only by the parent or guardian.
- DO NOT leave children unattended at any activity or class.
- Parents are encouraged to label all cups, bottles, diaper bags, and other personal items with the child's name.
- Out of respect for our nursery workers and volunteers, prompt pick up of children after worship services and other church events is expected.

Health Policies:



We want all our children to be healthy, therefore, we ask parents to follow these guidelines to assess their child's health before bringing them to church. This is for their comfort as well as for the health of other children. Parents should keep their children home if they observe these symptoms of illness within the last 24 hours:

- Fever (99.1 or higher)
- Excessive coughing
- Vomiting or Diarrhea
- Discharge in or around the eyes
- Questionable rash or contagious skin infections
- Green or yellow runny nose

A child that is being treated with an antibiotic should have received treatment for a minimum of 24 hours before coming to church.

Security Policies:



The following policies are for the purpose of protecting preschoolers & children, as well as volunteers, teachers, leaders and the church.

- Two adult Rule-No one adult shall ever be alone with one minor. A married couple counts as only one adult.
- Volunteers under the age of 18 will volunteer under the supervision of an adult.
- All children's areas will have a see through window or the doors will be left propped open.
- Infants and toddlers in the nursery shall be signed in and out of all children's services and picked up by the parent/guardian only.
- During restroom breaks, workers should monitor the children from outside the restroom if at all possible.
- If a restroom break is required for nursery through 5th grade, two adults shall accompany the children as a group.
- Children should not be allowed to roam free in unoccupied rooms or areas at any time.
- Any room to be used by children should be checked for safety prior to the room being used, including restrooms.

Volunteer/Worker Policies:



Northeast Christian Church is committed to carefully selecting, supporting, and training those who work with children and young people, and to providing supervision to those workers.

- Six month rule-All workers shall be a member of Northeast Christian Church for a time period of six months before participating in the children's ministries, and be a regular attendee.
- Complete a Children's/Youth Ministry Volunteer application form, and complete a background check
- All workers shall receive and sign a copy of the child protection policy.
- All workers shall receive yearly updated training
- All workers will wear some type of identification while working in the nursery.

Never Rules:



- Never go into a restroom with a child without another adult.
- Never go into a restroom with a child of the opposite sex.
- Leave the restroom door open if it is necessary to assist a child.
- Never release a child to an adult who is not the Parent/Guardian that checked in the child - The Security Tag assigned to the child and parent must be a confirmed match.
- Never touch a child inappropriately - do not slap, push or touch a child in a private area.
- Never go behind closed doors with a child or take a child into an area of a room that is not fully visible to the other childcare workers.
- Workers should avoid physical contact with children that could in any way be misconstrued as inappropriate. *General rule, no contact between the navel and knee.*

Prohibited Behavior:

The following behaviors are prohibited for all workers. This list is not meant to be all-inclusive, but is intended to provide guidance as to what may constitute prohibited behavior.

- Threatening or inflicting physical injury upon a child or youth, other than by accidental means.
- Committing any sexual offense against a child or youth, or engaging in any sexual contact with a child or youth.
- Making any kind of sexual advance, or making a request for sexual favors, or engaging in other verbal, visual or physical conduct of a sexual nature.
- The presence, possession, or being under the influence of any illegal or illicit drugs or alcohol while leading or participating in any function involving children.

****Remember, It is the duty of every person working with children and young people to prevent abuse and report any abuse discovered or suspected****

Notes: