

# Welcome to First Baptist Church Early Childhood Ministry

This is a child-centered time and place to worship God. We strive to provide a Bible-based, child-targeted, safe, relational, and fun experience for all children.

## Mission Statement:

Our **focus** is to **introduce** children to Jesus Christ, so that together we **respond** to God, learn to **serve** Him and be **transformed** by His mighty love and power.

## General Policies:

1. The ministry area opens and is prepared to receive children 15 minutes prior to services.
2. Parents\* sign in each child at the Welcome Desk each week, where they receive a name tag (to be put on the child's back) and a matching claim tag that which is kept by the caregiver and required to pick up the child. Pagers are given to parents of children under 3 years and visitors.
3. For security reasons and to avoid congestion, we ask that (as much as possible) only one parent bring children in and pick them up from their age-appropriate room inside the children's area. The bistro area just outside the children's area exit is a good place for family and friends to meet and/or visit.
4. Pick up children promptly following the service. Parents with pagers must return them to the Welcome Desk to receive their matching claim tag.
5. Once a child has been picked up from the room, families are asked to move to the exit where a staff member will remove the child's name tag and match it up with the claim tag. This is done to ensure that the child is leaving with the correct adult.
6. Children are expected to follow the directions given by the volunteer staff. Please encourage your children to do this. Any correction or management needed will be done in a positive manner with care to protect the child's self-esteem. The parent will be contacted if your child becomes very upset or is unable to participate constructively in the program due to behaviour.
7. Due to severe allergies, this is a nut free area. Please do not bring any nut-based foods into the center.

\*Parent refers to the adult person including grandparent, aunt, uncle, or adult friend accompanying the child

## Pagers:

Pagers are provided to parents of children up to 3 years and for visitors. Parents will be paged if their child becomes ill, cries until they are upset, needs a diaper change, needs to be fed, or sustains an injury requiring the parent's attention. Pagers are set on 'vibrate', so they should be placed next to your body.

## The Schedule:

8:45 – 9:00	Check In	10:45– 11:00
9:00 – 9:20	Play/Free Time Activities	11:00 – 11:20
9:20 – 9:40	Music and Story	11:20 – 11:40
9:40 – 10:20	Structured Activities/ Play Time	11:40 – 12:20
Approx. 10:20	Pick Up Time	Approx. 12:20

## Program Expectations:

The children will worship in a manner that will encourage their independence, creativity and ability to mature and be nurtured in the growing knowledge of God's love.

## Volunteer Staff:

To ensure the best possible care for your child, FBC has established policies and procedures for the selection of volunteers and for their training and development. Please affirm them for their ministry with your children.

## Program Description:

Once inside the Early Childhood Ministry area the children go to different rooms equipped appropriately according to levels of development.

**Noah's Park** is for newborns to approximately 18 months.

**Jacob's Ladder** is for children approximately 18 month to approximately 3 years old.

**Shepherd's Gate** is for children approximately 3 years to 4 years.

**Jericho Way** is for children who are in Kindergarten or 5 years with Kindergarten abilities.

The staff will take into consideration the developmental level and abilities of the child and the room capacity to determine into which room the child is placed.

## Music and Story

All children come together in the main hall for a time of worship singing and then those children that are able, stay for the presentation of Bible teaching before going back to their rooms for developmentally appropriate activities.

## How You Can Help:

1. To assist your child in adjusting to his/her surroundings, bring him/her to church on a regular basis.
2. Be on time for the start of the program so your child may experience the entire program.
3. Register and/or sign-in your child properly by completing all of the information on the form.
4. Be sure to label ALL your child's belongings and leave personal toys at home to avoid loss or breakage.
5. Get to know the volunteers involved with your child.
6. If your child is ill, please take the time to care for your child at home.

## Contact:

It you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Marianne Buerger** (Director of Children and Family Ministries) at **604-683-8441** or [children@firstbc.org](mailto:children@firstbc.org). If you need to contact the Early Childhood Department on Sunday mornings, call **604-683-8441, ext. 240**.