

Dear Nursery Ministry Parents,

The purpose of the Nursery Ministry is to come along side parents to provide a safe, clean, and loving environment for children, ages 6weeks to 3 years, while parents are in worship and Sunday School. I am pleased to share with you that the Education Committee and I have worked hard to evaluate and restructure the church nursery. Our main focus started with creating a handbook, which is enclosed if you have not yet received a copy, outlining the policies and procedures in effect when your child is in the care of the church nursery staff. Many of the policies and procedures have been in practice for quite some time, but it was important to the committee and to me that we establish better communication between parents, nursery staff, and the church family as to what can be expected during your child's time in the church nursery. Our Safe Sanctuary policy, along with general practices to ensure a clean and safe environment, helped to guide the policies that are now officially in place.

A few changes that you will notice when entering the church nursery includes the new check-in and check out system. The system is important in maintaining a conscious effort of safety, for regular church members as well as new visitors bringing their child for the first time. The name badge system and security tags ensure that every child is correctly identified, their belongings are easy to ID for staff, and check out is guaranteed to get children home safely. This may seem like a little much for the number of families and familiarity we have with one another, but it is a common practice among churches that communicates that your child's safety and care are important to the church.

Another very exciting addition to the nursery is a new curriculum for toddlers and twos that provides a schedule for the children during their time in the nursery. The schedule is simple, and includes play time, story time with a basic lesson that is repeated, praise time with music, snack time, and more. So, not only will your child get to play, but they will begin their faith journey as well.

The last of the major changes in the nursery includes the physical changes to the room, such as the removal of toys that were old and have served their purpose with the children of our church for some time. The toys, books, puzzles, and infant equipment has been, and will continue to be, replaced by newer items. In addition, the crib room has been rearranged to include a special Nursing Mother's Corner for those moms needing a quiet, private place to go in the church. The cozy nook is separated by two privacy screens, and includes a new glider rocker for comfort.

I am very excited about the small, but highly necessary changes that have occurred, and I hope that a few more updates will be made in the next year to our church nursery. Please take a few moments to read over the handbook, and to fill out the blue registration card that is included in this packet. You may return the registration card to the nursery attendant any Sunday morning. Parents will be asked to fill out a new blue registration card every August for the beginning of the new program year. It is asked that only children ages 6 weeks to 3 years of age be in the nursery. The nursery is not equipped for children over three, and to maintain a safe area for our smaller crawlers and toddlers, we would appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to contact me any time. I would appreciate any feedback.

Many blessings to your family,