



## Nursery Experience

In providing childcare, it is our goal to create a safe, caring, and loving environment.

The nursery experience will enhance the self-esteem, self-expression and social interaction skills of children. Each child will know that they are cared for and loved. Nursery staff work with children in a positive manner using praise, smiles, positive words, and personal interaction.

## Nursery Staff

All nursery staff must be 18 years of age or older and have completed and been “certified” through Safe Gatherings Child Protection Training. Youth (15-17 years old) may work in the nursery only when a “certified” adult is in attendance. Parents may be asked to volunteer on a monthly basis. If you wish to volunteer in the nursery please notify the Nursery Coordinator.

## Facilities and Equipment

- Minimum nursery staff/child ratio is 1:2 for infants (up to 18 months) and 1:4 for toddlers (18 months-3 years).
- All children are within sight and sound of nursery staff at all times.
- Only age appropriate toys and equipment are allowed in the nursery.
- Toys and equipment are cleaned as needed and put away at the end of each nursery use.
- The changing table is cleaned after each diaper change.
- Any broken equipment is reported to the Nursery Coordinator or Director of Children’s Ministries.

## Nutrition

**Bottles** should be prepared at home and marked with child’s name. Children will be held when bottle fed. No child will be allowed to sleep with a bottle.

**Group snacks** (animal crackers and/or goldfish) are often served during the nursery experience.

**Allergy** concerns need to be reported to the Nursery Coordinator or Director of Children’s Ministries.

## Illness

Children need to be symptom free of the following when left in the nursery:

- Runny ears/eyes
- Discolored mucus from nose
- Temperature of 100 degrees or more

Children need to be symptom free of the following for 24 hours when left in the nursery:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

Parents will be notified of any exposure to communicable disease.

Any evidence of neglect, abuse, or unusual injuries will be noted and reported to the Pastors and Directors of Children’s Ministries.

## Time Guidelines

In order to best serve each child’s best interests, children may not be left in the church nursery over 4 hours, unless approved by the Nursery Coordinator/Director of Children’s Ministries.

The church nursery is only available for church sponsored activities.