



THE INFANT AND TODDLER MINISTRY OF
THE GATHERING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

-Matthew 19:14

We believe your child is a special gift from God and we want to provide the best love and care possible while they are staying in our nursery/toddler room. Please read through this information packet and fill out the registration form. We will keep these on file in the nursery for the caregiver's reference.

You will find the following information in this packet:

- Check-in and dismissal procedures
- Labeling of your child's belongings
- Good Health Guidelines
- Diapering & Toileting Policies
- Feeding & snack policy
- Safe Church policies
- Cleaning policy

Check-in & Dismissal Procedures

- At check-in, parents of new attendees will be asked to fill out a registration form.
- Parent/Guardian Cell phone numbers must be given at the Island Safari registration desk when they leave their child in our care. This allows us to quickly alert a parent of a need in the nursery and provides a secure check-in and check-out procedure. (PLEASE SET YOUR CELL PHONE TO VIBRATE DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE)
- Upon registering your child a label will be provided with their name, date, and allergies printed on the label. This label will be placed on the back of their shirt giving the caregivers ready access to important information. The children's ministry area (ISLAND SAFARI) will be staffed between 9:25 am and 12:00 noon each Sunday.

From 9:30–10:30 am children from newborn through 6th grade will be involved in a relaxed-spiritual atmosphere of games, crafts, and light Bible lessons.

Beginning at 10:45 (during the worship service) children will be involved in our Sunday Bible Adventures program. This program features a more structured format for learning biblical lessons.

All children cry sometimes when being left by parents. We understand and expect it. In most cases, crying stops a **Parents are expected to pick up their child in a timely manner after worship is over.**

Labeling

Please put your child's name on your diaper bag and any cup/bottle you are leaving in the nursery. Diaper bags should include size appropriate diapers, a burp cloth if needed and a change of clothes. We do not have spare clothing in the nursery.

Good Health Guidelines

We want to provide a healthy environment in our nursery, so we ask you to keep your child at home when you observe any of the following:

- Fever/start of antibiotic treatment in the previous 24 hours
- Diarrhea/vomiting in the previous 12 hours
- Discharge in or around the eyes
- Green or yellow runny nose
- Excessive coughing
- Questionable rash
- Any communicable disease

If your baby or toddler becomes ill while in the nursery, you will be notified promptly. For your child's protection, caregivers are expected to follow these same guidelines.

Diapering and Toileting Procedures

- Diapers are to be changed only in designated areas and in the presence of other caregivers.
- If a toddler needs to use the bathroom, the caregiver should assist the child only as needed.

Toileting Policy

- If a child is toilet trained, they will be accompanied to the bathroom. If the child does not require assistance, the adult caregiver will remain outside the bathroom door. If the child does require assistance, the adult caregiver will help as needed.
- Please alert the nursery staff if a child is potty training so we can place a potty training sticker on their clothing. This will prompt our staff to frequently ask that child if they need to use the bathroom.

Feeding Babies/Toddlers

- We request that all children have their bottles/cups properly labeled. We require caregivers to disinfect their hands before feeding a baby. A rocking chair is provided in the nursery for comfortable feeding. Burp cloths are requested from parents but if they are not included in the child's diaper bag, the caregiver will use a paper towel.
- The church supplies the nursery with Cheerios. The caregiver checks the attendance roster for any identified food allergies. Any child with a severe or life threatening food allergy will have a special allergy sticker on their clothing to alert all nursery attendants of their restrictions.

Safe Church Policies

The Gathering Church is committed to providing a safe and caring environment for your child and their caregivers.

Please read the following policies and bring any concerns to the Children's ministry director.

Windows in all classrooms

There is a window in each class room that allows constant and free access to the activities taking place in any of our Sunday School rooms.

Caregiver Procedures

- No adult will be alone in the church, or at a church approved activity, with a child that is not his or her own or a relative. With prior approval of the Director of Children's Ministries, an adult may be physically alone for a period of time with a child if a supervisory adult has been identified for that occurrence and constant monitoring via intercom, pager and/or physical drop-in has been established.
- Doors must remain unlocked.