

Welcome to the Nursery

Our nursery staff would like to welcome you and your new baby to Faith Community Church! Although many new parents choose to keep their baby with them in church for the first few weeks, eventually your child will be alert and moving around and for his own sake as well as for the benefit of other worshipers, you will probably begin to use our nursery. We want to encourage you in that decision and reassure you that we work hard to make our nursery a safe, healthy environment for your child with great caretakers for him/her to spend time with.

A few of our policies and guidelines are summarized below. If you have any questions or would like more information in any area, please don't hesitate to call Joyce Wymer in the church office.

WHY DO WE HAVE A NURSERY? Although it may seem obvious that a nursery exists to provide childcare for babies during events in which their parents are participating, that is not all there is to it. In addition to the practical need for safe, supervised childcare, we feel that it is very important for little children to feel comfortable and safe in the church. They need to see that God cares and provides for them in ways unique to them.

WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE NURSERY? The Nursery is part of the Children's Ministry here at Faith Community. Cheryl Kolb is our Children's Ministry Director and a member of the paid staff of Faith Community. She heads a team of volunteers that are responsible for the scheduling of nursery volunteers, and establishing nursery policies. Joyce Wymer is the lead volunteer in the 10:00 nursery and should be able to answer most of your questions.

WHO IS CARING FOR THE CHILDREN? Volunteers from the church body are scheduled to work in the nursery once/month or once every two months. We try to have at least one worker for every 2-3 babies. At least one of the people in the nursery each week is a person designated as the "lead" worker and is one who has volunteered in the nursery on a regular basis for a long period of time, is familiar with all the policies and procedures, the volunteers, and the children. Many weeks we have an extra volunteer who takes a pager into the service, thus being available should we need additional help. Junior helpers are at least 12 years of age, may volunteer along with their parent, and are not permitted to carry babies or change diapers. A junior helper does not substitute for an adult. We appreciate young people who are service-minded and want to learn the role of child-care volunteer.

IS THE ROOM SAFE? The nursery room has been arranged and equipped with the needs of newborns through 24 month olds in mind. We have a small room within the nursery that has 2 stacking crib units and a rocking chair. Mothers may use this area to nurse their babies privately. Babies who need to sleep can be in the cribs where the staff is able to see and hear them but they are out of the center of activity where other little ones are playing. We have a table and chairs designed especially for babies where we serve a cheerio snack to those who are old enough and whose parents have given permission for them to have a snack. Our policy is to use the seat belts on every child, every time they are in the chairs. This policy applies to the infant seats, swings, and changing table as well.

IS IT CLEAN? Our housekeeping staff keeps the nursery clean using products that won't leave harmful residues. They vacuum several times each week so that the carpet is clean and ready for little crawlers. A changing table and sink are located in the bathroom that connects the nursery to the toddler room. Our changing table has disposable paper sheets that are changed between each child. We use disposable gloves for changing, in addition to hand-washing. We try to change each baby once during their visit (more often if the need is obvious!) We use the child's own diapers but have an ample supply of disposable diapers available should the need arise.

WHAT ABOUT FEEDING? The nursery staff will feed your baby his/her bottle, etc according to the directions you leave on the sign-in sheet. We have a bottle warmer to use if needed.

WHAT ABOUT TOYS, ETC.? We have a huge collection of donated toys. If the safety of any toy is questioned, out it goes. We wash the toys periodically, including stuffed animals and dolls. Teething-type toys are washed each week as they are used. Although we do accept donations of used toys and equipment we make sure that they are safe, no broken or missing parts, etc.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER CHILDREN? Just like adults, children come with different temperaments. There are the leaders and the followers, the active and the quiet, the givers and the takers.... In the nursery we do a lot of rocking, walking, story reading, interactive play, and so on. We try to protect them from each other on those grumpy days everyone has now & then. Our volunteers are great at really focusing on those little ones for the hour or so they are with us.

Young children are very susceptible to colds, flus, and other illness. We need to make every effort to keep the healthiest environment possible in our nursery. Please keep your child at home if any one of the following is true: your child has had a fever in the past 24 hours; your child has vomited or had diarrhea in the past 24 hours; your child has frequent coughing, a rash, open sores, matter in the eyes, or runny nose with anything but clear discharge.

Thank you for allowing us the privilege of caring for your child. If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, or complaints, please contact us!

Sincerely,

The Nursery Team

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