

## Camelback Bible Church

### YOUNG CHILDREN'S MINISTRY GUIDELINES

Dear parents,

We are excited to welcome your new little one into our Young Children's Ministry at Camelback Bible Church! As you know, our Young Children's Ministry is divided into two sections: our Nursery and our Toddler Class. Our Nursery is for young ones typically 0-18 months or until they are able to walk. Our purpose in the Nursery is to provide a loving and nurturing environment for our babies. Our Toddler Class is for young ones who can walk, typically 19 months – 3 years. In this class our goal is to guide and teach lessons about our Eternal God at the children's own level.

Please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with our guidelines below and feel free to share your concerns, observations or suggestions with the nursery volunteers, teachers or with me. We desire that your child be happy and excited to be in the Young Children's Ministry. We believe that we all need to work together for that to happen successfully. Thank you for helping us in this ministry.

In His Service,

Carmen Benford

Young Children's Ministry Director

480.831.5059

#### HEALTH RULES

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1. Please do not send your child if he/she demonstrates signs of illness: cloudy mucous (yellow or green), fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or anything that you consider unusual for your child. If he/she has demonstrated any of these symptoms 24 hours prior to Sunday morning, please do not bring him/her to his/her room. If your child develops any of these symptoms while in our care, we will contact you and possibly ask that the child be removed. We ask that this rule be followed for the welfare of your child as well as that of the other children and the teachers.
2. If your child is on an antibiotic, we ask that he/she has been on it at least 48 hours prior to coming to the nursery. Please let us know if we should look for reactions to the antibiotic. Also, keep in mind that even though he/she may no longer be contagious, his/her system is still not rid of the "germ" that caused the problem. A few days of a lower-keyed environment can only be to his/her benefit.

#### PERSONAL BELONGINGS

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1. Because we serve snacks and drinks, please send a cup in your bag.
2. Label any of your child's belongings: bottle, cup, bag, and pacifier. If not labeled, we will do it for you.
3. Send an extra outfit just in case of soiling.
4. For health and sanitary reasons, we ask that you send your baby in disposable diapers.

*\*We realize that we are asking that you send more than just a diaper. This will help us tremendously if you send your child's belongings in a bag.*

#### DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

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Prior to going to the nursery, your child will need to be checked in at a child check-in computer station. There is a station located to the east of the main sanctuary doors outside of the nursery. You will receive two adhesive tags, one to put on your child's back and the other to use when picking up your child from the nursery. We use this system to ensure our children are kept as safe as possible.

**Please come "collect" your child as promptly as possible.** The Young Children's Ministry volunteers need at least 15 minutes to disinfect after all the children have left. We ask that one person (preferably a parent) drop off and pick up a child. Too many people, as well meaning as they may be, only add confusion at the beginning and end of your child's stay in the nursery.

## **BABIES IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE**

Parents are welcome to keep their children with them but if the children are little, please consider the following:

### **1. Health**

In the Young Children's Ministries rooms, we have health rules and diligently try to enforce them. Adults "function" with colds, flu, coughs, and many air-borne illnesses; so often times they will still go to church. Keeping your baby with you does not always mean they will be less exposed to illnesses.

### **2. Infants**

You may want to keep your baby with you if he sleeps through the whole service. If he needs to be fed, please consider using the Nursing Room. Come to the Registration Room of the Sanctuary Nursery to gain access to that room.

### **3. Crawlers and Toddlers**

Separation anxiety is normal and common though we realize leaving your child can be a very heart-wrenching and anxious time. The commitment of our volunteers will be to follow your written instructions and to page you if all our attempts to comfort the child are unsuccessful.

### ***Lastly and most importantly***

### **4. Corporate Worship**

One of our desires in providing care for young children is to allow parents to worship without distraction. We are also very sensitive to all in the service; that all may have the opportunity to give the worship of our Lord their undivided attention throughout the entire service. Please be very aware and careful to not distract yourself or others at any time during the service because each aspect serves an important purpose.

The Introit and/or Opening Song: The first music you hear is the Opening Song (9am service) or the Choral Introit (11am service). This first item brings our minds to this place and time, and helps us leave the outside world behind as we focus on God together as a body.

Congregational Singing: When we sing together we sometimes sing praise or prayers to God, and sometimes sing words of encouragement to each other. In both cases, our music is about God and the truths He has taught us about Himself through the Bible.

Choir Anthem or Selections: When other people sing or play music for us, it is a change for us to think deeply about God, what He has done for us, and how He wants us to live.

Scripture Reading: The Bible tells us to read God's word aloud and to each other when we are together. This is an important time in the service for God to speak directly to His church.

Pastoral Prayer: The Bible tells us to pray when we are together, to praise God, thank God and bring our needs to God.

Sermon: This time is designed to teach and reveal the message of Christ to a needy people

Offering: This is a time when we give back, with thanksgiving, to the Lord our gifts of money

Communion: This is a symbolic act for believers representing the understanding of Christ's ultimate offering of Himself. Jesus, Himself, commanded us to do this often, and until He returns to us.

Baptism: This is a symbolic act for believers, representing the new life we have in the salvation given to us by Christ. This also is a public testimony to the world and God's family of the work God has done in our hearts.

Benediction: This is a charge to all to take Christ into our world.

All of us at times have come to the service having experienced physical, emotional, mental or spiritual pummeling throughout the week(s). A hungry or uncomfortable baby, a curious one, or even a happy one might be a distraction to a brother or sister needing to worship unabashedly, privately surrendering a heart and spirit needy of refreshment or renewal. Is there a prodigal brother sitting around you? Our nursery rooms and Welcome Center have speakers so you won't miss the sermon if you need to go out with your child.