

Dear Nursery Volunteer,

Thank you for serving the Lord by giving of your love and time to our youngest members. This may be the first time you have ever served in the nursery, so I thought some information might be helpful. We want to provide the best care possible to these little ones for those few hours on Sunday because the nursery sets the stage for a child's spiritual growth and it points them to a relationship with Jesus. As nursery caregivers, we are given an awesome privilege to care for, nurture and protect these precious children. You can help each child feel God's love as you cradle, cuddle, play praise music, or sing "Jesus Loves Me" as a crying baby becomes a napping baby in your arms; through smiles, laughter and loving voices. The first spiritual steps can take place before a baby crawls, and you are a vital part of all this happening.

I am listing some guidelines that may be helpful when it's your turn to serve in the nursery:

1. Act lovingly to children at all times. This includes body language, voice and actions.
2. We will be using a pager (beeper) number system to make sure we are giving the right child to the right parents. This is how it works: Parents sign child in; you give them a pager (beeper). Ask parents to record the pager (beeper) number on the sign-in sheet and on a label with the child's name. You double check it. Attach the label to the back of the child. When the parents come to pick up the child, their pager (beeper) number should match the number on the label that the child is wearing.
3. Only parents may pick up children – no siblings. Remember to check the pager (beeper) number.
4. Only parents, staff, caregivers, *assigned* youth, babies and toddlers are allowed in the nurseries.
5. Change each child's diaper at least once per hour and when needed.
6. Place soiled diapers in a disposable bag (found in the top drawer of changing table), and then toss it into the garbage can in the bathroom.

7. Never allow a child to be unattended. Keep children only in the nursery room, no walking around the halls.
8. Call parents on pager (beeper) if child cries for more than 10 minutes.
9. Volunteers should play on the floor, talk and sing with the children.
10. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. Have fun!

We are blessed to have Wendy Merritt and Jessica Henderson on our full-time Nursery Staff. They will help you and assist you with caring for our little ones and answer any questions you may have about our policies.

If you need to trade assigned nursery times, please call someone on the list of nursery volunteers you received.

I hope this letter will be of help to you as you serve in the nursery. Once again, thank you and God bless you.

Letha Parker, Director of Children's Ministries
(334) 298-3186

*Volunteers must fill out a permission form for a background check and return it to Letha Parker.