

# grace nursery

*newborn through 3 years*

## The Purpose of the Nursery

The Grace Nursery exists to serve parents and children. We serve parents by providing childcare during ministry events, staffed by qualified and trained servants, so parents can devote their entire attention to worship. We serve children by providing a safe and fun environment where we begin to teach them God's truth at the earliest age.

## What to Expect

The Grace Nursery is a safe and loving environment for your child, from newborn through three years old. You can expect your child to receive excellent care during their stay! Each Sunday, our nursery servants prepare age-appropriate Bible lessons, snacks, and activities.

To help us serve you better, we have implemented the following policies:

- The nursery opens **15 minutes before service begins**.
- All children must have a completed Registration Form (to be updated each year).
- No food will be given to children with identified allergies.
- A medical release must be on file for every child using an Epi-pen.
- We will make every effort to engage an unhappy child through activities and attention. If a child is inconsolable (10 minutes of non-stop crying), we will contact the parent.
- Medications will not be administered by our nursery servants under any circumstance. Please do not put any medications in your child's bottle.
- We have a zero-tolerance policy for inappropriate contact of any kind.

The following, additional policies apply to men serving in the nursery:

- Men will not carry a child around the nursery for extended periods, but just long enough to provide comfort for those who are crying before putting them down. (Exceptions will be made for infants).
- Men will not allow children to sit on their laps, but will have children sit next to them on the floor while they play or read to them.
- Men will not provide piggyback rides, place children on their shoulders, or be involved in wrestling or roughhousing.
- Men will not change diapers or go into the bathroom with any child; only women may change diapers or assist children in the bathroom.

## What to Bring

When packing a diaper bag for your child, please include the following items:

- Two or three diapers and wipes.
- Pacifier or blanket, should your child need it for comfort. Please include a pacifier attachment so that the pacifier cannot be easily shared with others.
- A complete change of clothes.

A bottle of milk, formula, juice, or water. **Please mark all items with your child's first name before coming into the nursery.** Please note that if you bring in a bottle of breast milk, you will need to come back to feed your baby.

## Nursery Check-In and Pick-Up

When you arrive at the nursery, a greeter will meet you at the half-wall and check-in your child. Only the scheduled staff and children are to be in the nursery during ministry hours.

Please consider those serving in the nursery and pick up your child **within ten minutes of the close of service.** In an effort to protect the children, please keep in mind that we have checkout procedures. We ask that all parents be patient as we work for the safety and security of the children. Do not reach over the gate to pick up your child before the nursery greeter has checked him out.

## Saying Good-Bye

After your child has been checked into the nursery, simply wave a quick good-bye and leave for the worship service. It is normal for little ones to cry when a parent leaves. This does not usually last long, and separation becomes easier as you develop regular attendance routines. Our servants will immediately try to create interest in an activity and give assurance that you will return after the worship service. If we are not able to console your child after an extended period of time (10 minutes of non-stop crying), we will contact you.

## Behavior/Discipline

Behavioral issues will be handled with gentleness and grace. We will not punish (physically, verbally, or emotionally) children for disobedience. Correction will only be given to maintain the nursery structure and safety. If we are unable to control your child, we will contact you during the service.

## Your Child's Health

We desire to provide the safest environment for your child. Therefore, we operate a Well-Baby Nursery. For the protection of all the children in our care, we ask that you keep your child out of the nursery if he displays any of the following symptoms:

Runny Nose	Nausea
Cold (symptoms in last 24 hours)	Vomiting
Fever	Diarrhea
Rash	Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)
Persistent Cough	Communicable Diseases (Like Chicken Pox)
Sore Throat	Any other signs of illness

If your child has non-contagious symptoms, we ask that you please provide a note from your doctor to help us properly care for him as well as others.

At times children will become suddenly ill. In those cases, we will isolate your child from the other children and contact you immediately.

The health and well being of your child is extremely important to us. That is why we strive to make our nurseries the cleanest rooms in the church. Listed below are steps we take to ensure the cleanliness of the nurseries:

- All hand toys are cleaned with disinfectant weekly and after any event.
- Crib sheets are changed after every use.
- All spills are cleaned up immediately.
- Workers use disinfectant to sanitize their hands when they arrive and after changing diapers or wiping noses.
- The nurseries are cleaned weekly and after any event.

## Nursery Evacuation

- It is imperative that parents stay on campus while their children are in the nursery. All parents need to be readily available in the event of an emergency.
- Should an emergency occur and evacuation be necessary, all children will be escorted by Grace Nursery servants to the front yard of the Main Building. In the event of an evacuation, parents may go to the front yard to pick up their children.



### 1st Hour Structure

Each Sunday we take the children through the following activities during their time in the nursery:

Arrival Time: The children watch an age-appropriate show/movie

Play Time: Our servants closely supervise and engage with the children during Play Time

Song and Story Time: We sing "Jesus Loves Me" and teach prepared Bible lessons designed for 2-3 year olds

Color Time: The children color a picture that corresponds to their Bible lesson

Snack Time: *If your child has a food allergy, please provide a snack.*

Movie Time: The children watch an age-appropriate movie