

Parent Handbook

Spotswood Baptist Church Preschool Policies

and do not hinder them, for the kingdom

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me,



of heaven belongs to such as these." Mt. 19:14

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A Note to Parents . . .

Dear Parents,

The Preschool Ministry Team at Spotswood Baptist Church loves children! We consider it a privilege from God to share biblical instruction and love with your child. We view ourselves as partners with you and want to do anything we can to make this stage in your family's life enjoyable and rewarding.

As preschool parents, you make the most significant impact on your child. Talking about God and His goodness teaches your child about the nature of God. Telling your child about your own personal commitment to Christ and your convictions about His Word shows your child the importance of an individual commitment. Regular Bible study, prayer, and church attendance helps demonstrate the priority of God in your life.

These are critical years as you lay the foundation for your child's future. We want to help you learn how Christian parents raise their children in the ways of Jesus Christ. It is our prayer that, like Jesus, your preschooler will grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. (Luke 2:52)

We anticipate great years ahead!

In Christ,
David Short
Minister to Preschool and Children



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Preschool Ministry Purpose Statement

The Preschool Ministry of Spotswood Baptist Church exists to glorify God by providing a safe, loving, Christian environment so the preschoolers in our community can develop a foundation for becoming devoted followers of Jesus Christ.



Our Preschool Objectives

The objective of our Preschool Ministry is to help each child:

- Associate God, Jesus and the Bible with happy feelings,
- Know that the Bible is a special book that tells about God and Jesus,
- Think of church as my church, a happy place where people love me,
- Think of home as a place of love and security,
- Develop a positive feeling of self-worth,
- Make progress in solving problems, sharing and expressing oneself,
- Begin to show love, respect and acceptance for others.

These Christian objectives and biblical truths are interwoven in the following activities:







Art	Blocks	Books	Puzzles
Pictures	Music	Homeliving	Nature

We recognize the validity of play time and the importance of what your child is learning through activity relational teaching.

Young children are very active and play is their main way of life. As an adult "works", the young child plays. We offer experiences which encourages each child to further develop their thinking skills, gain independence, foster creativity and prepare them for the exciting tasks of tomorrow.

The home and the church should work together to benefit your child.

Arriving / Leaving Your Child

1. Preschool facilities will be open 15 minutes prior to regular church-wide activities and close 15 minutes after the conclusion of the activity. Children should be picked up in a timely manner so workers can get to their next activity and children will not think they are being forgotten by their parents. **Parents should remain on campus during the activity.** 
2. All preschoolers must be brought to their departments and picked up by their parent or adult guardian. They will only be released to the individual who has that child's security form. 
3. A parent should call for his child immediately following the service or function, but not more than 5 minutes early so as not to interrupt teaching in progress, or upset the other children. 
4. A completed security form must accompany every child for admittance. When picking up your child, a parent should knock, give the security form to the teacher and wait outside the room for your child to be brought to you. 
5. Only preschoolers and their teachers are permitted in any preschool room. This is necessary for the safety of our children and to allow teachers to provide activities to challenge and meet the needs of each child.
6. Parents, other family members, and friends are asked **NOT** to visit the child to "look in" on him. This may upset your child (thinking it's time to go), upset the other children, or disrupt the teaching session. 
7. **ALL** items brought from home, especially bottles, cups, and pacifiers, must be labeled with the child's full name. This will reduce your loss of items that can get confused with the church's supplies or other children's belongings. 
8. Please do not bring toys from home. It's hard to share.

Feeding Policies

1. Infants will be fed formula, milk, juice, or water as provided in plastic bottles. Feeding young children is a serious responsibility, therefore time and circumstances do not allow for any other type of feeding. Space is available for parents who need to feed their infants.
2. Only plastic baby bottles are to be sent in the diaper bag. Each bottle should be labeled with the child's name and contents. (Example: John Smith—Apple Juice—at 10:00 a.m.)
3. Toddler and all older preschoolers are served a snack of water and Ritz crackers on Sunday mornings.
4. Snacks and food activities are a common occurrence in the Preschool Division. If your child has a food allergy or a special need related to food, **always notify his teacher and note the allergy on the security form.**
5. A nursing area is provided in the Preschool Department in the Newborn and Baby rooms. For assistance see the Director.

Extended Teaching Care

As part of the smooth operation of the Preschool Ministry, parents are asked to serve about **one session per month.** This monthly commitment can take place Sunday morning or Wednesday evening. The Preschool Coordinator will work with parents to find a time which meets the needs of the Preschool Ministry and is suitable for the parents.

Health Policies

1. For the protection of your child and the other children, parents are requested not to bring a child who appears to be ill;

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Control of Infectious Diseases of the American Academy of Pediatrics, a child should not be taken from home when any of the following exist:

- * Fever-free when not medicated – currently or within previous 24 hours
 - * Vomiting or diarrhea
 - * Any symptom of childhood disease such as scarlet fever, German measles, mumps, chicken pox, or whooping cough
 - * Common cold - from onset through one week
 - * Sore Throat
 - * Croup
 - * Any unexplained rash
 - * Any skin infection - boils, ringworm, impetigo
 - * Pink eye or other eye infections
2. The teachers will not give medication to any child. This policy is for the well-being of all our children.
 3. Parents should report all known allergies to the teacher immediately.

Promotion Policy

Babies and ones are promoted within their division based on their physical development and space availability. All other children are promoted yearly based on their age as of September 30. It is best for all preschool children to participate in a class with preschoolers their own age. Please trust our judgment in placing and promoting your preschooler.

Our Preschool Curriculum

The curriculum used by our Preschool Division is written by LifeWay Christian Resources, the publishing organization of the Southern Baptist convention. The material is Bible based and planned for the growth and development of preschoolers, teaching children about the love and truths of Christ, even from birth.

How Parents Can Help

For a child's first experience at church to be happy and meaningful, the major responsibility is in the hands of his parents:

- A child's adjustment to church is much more difficult with each passing month and year, so we recommend bringing the child to church early and regularly.
- Become familiar with the Preschool Policies, and cooperate in every way possible. We are eager for your child to have happy experiences at church and trust that you will be willing to help.
- At the department door, do not attempt to slip away from your child. Tell him in a kind, firm voice that you are going but will be back to get him soon. Then, leave immediately. If your child continues to be upset, we will send for you. It will not be necessary for you to "look in" on him between Sunday School and the worship service.
- Begin talking to your child positively during the week about going to (continued on page 7)

church. Use the child's teachers' names and other friends in his class frequently when talking about happy times at church.

- Use the pupil leaflet from last Sunday to talk about what they heard in class to reinforce Biblical truths at home during the week.
- Begin preparing for church Saturday evening, setting out clothes, etc. This will make Sunday morning less stressful for your family.
- Don't be surprised if your child's nap and feeding schedule become altered while he's at church. He may get so involved and excited that he finds there's too much fun to go to sleep! We will, however, do all we can to keep your child on the schedule you specify.
- Parents of preschoolers are expected to work in Extended Teaching Care according to the schedule set up by the Preschool Ministry Team.

Opportunities for Preschoolers and Their Families

Sunday School - A time for learning about the love of Jesus through Bible stories and Bible-based activities. Every Sunday morning at 8:55, 10:15 or 11:30 am.

AWANA - Three's and Four's learn to hide God's Word in their hearts through this fun, fast-paced activity program. Wednesday nights from 6:30 - 8:00 (September through May).

Fall Festival - A family friendly community event sponsored by Spotswood in October.

Vacation Bible School - For preschoolers entering Kindergarten, an opportunity to learn more about Jesus. 9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. daily, usually in June.

31 Biblical Virtues to Pray for Your Children

1. **Salvation.** “Lord, let salvation spring up within my children, that they may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory” (Is. 45:8, 2 Tim. 2:10).
2. **Growth in Grace.** “I pray that my children may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet. 3:18).
3. **Love.** “Grant, Lord, that my children may learn to live a life of love, through the Spirit who dwells in them” (Ga. 5:25, Eph 5:2).
4. **Honesty and integrity.** “May integrity and honesty be their virtue and their protection” (Ps 25:21).
5. **Self-control.** “Father, help my children not to be like many others around them, but let them be alert and self-controlled in all they do” (1 Thes 5:6).
6. **Love for God’s Word.** “May my children grow to find Your Word more precious than much pure gold and sweeter than honey from the comb” (Ps 19:10).
7. **Justice.** “God, help my children to love justice as You do and act justly in all they do” (Ps 11:7, Micah 6:8).
8. **Mercy.** “May my children always be merciful, just as their Father is merciful” (Lk 6:36).
9. **Respect (for self, others, authority).** “Father, grant that my children may show proper respect to everyone, as your Word commands” (1 Pet 2:17).
10. **Biblical self-esteem.** “Help my children develop a strong self-esteem that is rooted in the realization that they are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus” (Eph 2:10).
11. **Faithfulness.** “Let love and faithfulness never leave my children, but bind these twin virtues around their necks and write them on the tablet of their hearts” (Prov 3:3).
12. **Courage.** “May my children always be strong and courageous in their character and in their actions” (Dt. 31:6).
13. **Purity.** “Create in them a pure heart, O God, and let that purity of heart be shown in their actions” (Ps 51:10).
14. **Kindness.** “Lord, may my children always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else” (1 Thess 5:15).
15. **Generosity.** “Grant that my children may be generous and willing to share, and so lay up treasure for themselves and a firm foundation for the coming age” (1 Tim 6:18-19).
16. **Peace-loving.** “Father, let my children make every effort to do what leads to peace” (Rom 14:19).
17. **Joy.** “May my children be filled with the joy given by the Holy Spirit” (1 Thes 1:6).
18. **Perseverance.** “Lord, teach my children perseverance in all they do, and help them especially to run with perseverance the race marked out for them” (Heb 12:1).
19. **Humility.** “God, please cultivate in my children the ability to show true humility toward all” (Titus 3:2).
20. **Compassion.** “Lord, please clothe my children with the virtue of compassion” (Col 3:12)
21. **Responsibility.** “Grant that my children may learn responsibility, for each one should carry his own load” (Gal 6:5).
22. **Contentment.** “Father, teach my children the secret of being content in any and every situation, through Him who gives them strength” (Phil 4:12-13).
23. **Faith.** “I pray that faith will find root and grow in my children’s hearts, that by faith they may gain what has been promised to them” (Lk 17:5-6, Heb 11:1-40).
24. **A servant’s heart.** “God, please help my children develop servants’ hearts, that they may serve wholeheartedly, as if they were serving the Lord, not men” (Eph 6:7).
25. **Hope.** “May the God of hope grant that my children may overflow with hope and hopefulness by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Rom 15:13).
26. **Willingness and ability to work.** “Teach my children, Lord, to value work and to work at it with all their hearts, as working for the Lord, not for men” (Col 3:23)
27. **Passion for God.** “Lord, please instill in my children, a soul that “followeth harder after thee” (Ps. 63:8, KJV), one that clings passionately to You”.
28. **Self-discipline.** “Father, I pray that my children may acquire a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair: (Prov 1:3).
29. **Prayerfulness.** “Grant, Lord, that my children’s lives may be marked by prayerfulness, that they may learn to pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests” (Eph 6:18).
30. **Gratitude.** “Help my children to live lives that are always overflowing with thankfulness and always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ: (Eph 5:20, Col 2:7).
31. **A heart for missions.** “Lord, please help my children to develop a desire to see your glory declared among the nations, your marvelous deeds among all peoples” (Ps 96:3).

