



Orientation Information for Children & Student Ministries



Monmouth Christian Church
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OUR MISSION

“To partner with families in helping kids commit to loving God passionately, loving others genuinely, and serving Christ boldly..”

These stages define our mission in partnering with parents:

▸ **Stage 1-Foundation: Equipping families to understand their roles.**

Our foundation building is geared towards families with children from birth through preschool and for children and families just entering the church.

▸ **Stage 2-Formation: Equipping families to disciple their children.**

Formation is geared for families with children in preschool through 1st grade.

▸ **Stage 3-Fundamentals: Assisting families in nurturing their children’s spiritual growth.**

Fundamentals focuses on families with children in 1st through 4th grade.

▸ **Stage 4-Focus: Equipping families to share their Christian values with the world.**

Focus is for families with children in 4th through 6th grade.

▸ **Stage 5-Friendship: Helping families to want to stay connected as children become teens.**

For families of 6th through 8th grade.

WHAT ARE YOUR PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES?

For Your Child/Children's Safety

Childcare policies have been developed over time and are not meant as an inconvenience or a burden, but as a way to most effectively care for our children. Safety and security for our children is our number one priority! We have the following procedures in place to insure this:

Check In and Out Procedures - We have sign in sheets for parents bringing their children into the Shepherd's Lambs Nursery and the Kingdom Kids. Please fill the information out completely, noting your arrival and departure time, as well as any special instructions for the child. **We must have the parent's on-site location on record each time a child is left.**

Children in the Shepherd's Lambs Nursery only move up once a year. To move from the Birth-2 years to the 2's & 3's a child must be 2 by September 1st. This also applies to children moving from the 2's & 3's into the 4-Kindergarden Kingdom Kids.

Name Tags - These are required on all children in Shepherd's Lambs Nursery and the Kingdom Kids rooms. Please fill out a name tag label for each child, take a wrist coil and, writing the number of the coil next to your child's name. When you return to the room for pick up, you must present your wrist tag to pick up your child. If you have misplaced the wrist coil, ID must be confirmed by one of the Children's Ministry staff before the child can be picked up.

Drop Off/Pick Up Policy - Drop Off/Pick up at the door only - Please DO NOT come into the classroom for crowding and safety reasons. Only an adult (16 years or older) with the appropriate wrist coil may pick up a child. PLEASE do not give your wrist coil to sibling to get younger children unless that child is 16 or older.

If your child becomes ill while he/she is in church, you will be notified immediately and we ask that you take him home. Please remain onsite while your child is on the MCC campus; we will need your exact location each time you sign your child in. We can only release your child to the authorized adult. Your cooperation in this matter is most appreciated and crucial in helping us keep our children's environment as safe as it can be.

If a child is recovering from an illness or infection, we ask that he be both on antibiotic (if one was prescribed) and fever free for at least twenty-four hours before coming to church.

HOW YOU CAN HELP MCC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

1. Pray for the Children's Ministry Team and Volunteers
2. Donate supplies to the nursery or classrooms.
3. Join the MCC Children's Ministry team!
4. Become a Team Coordinator. A Team Coordinator confirms team schedules and contacts team members.
5. Help with special events.

For Your Child's Wellness

We strive to have a happy, safe and secure environment for our children.

One of the ways we can do this is to make sure the children who come to MCC are healthy and well. This is not only for the well being of a potentially sick child, but also for his/her classmates, team members and volunteers as well. We ask that you keep your child at home when he/she is ill or if he/she exhibits any of the following symptoms within twenty-four hours prior to church:

Unusual fatigue or irritability

Coughing, sneezing, runny nose with color

Runny eyes

Any fever

Vomiting or diarrhea

Ear pain or discharge

Inflamed throat or mouth, mouth sores

Any rash, inflammation or unusual skin sores

If your child has been exposed to or may have a contagious illness, we ask that you keep him/her at home. Contagious illnesses pose a risk for everyone. Contagious illnesses include colds and flu, strep throat, pink eye as well as childhood diseases like chicken pox, mumps, etc.

If your child exhibits any of these symptoms or illnesses, they will not be permitted in to the nursery or classroom. If you are concerned about your child's health and are not sure if you should bring him/her to church, the following saying is good advice: "When in doubt, keep him/her out."

Child/Family Registration - We require a registration form for any child participating in the Nurseries, Sunday School or Children's Church programs. This provides our volunteers and Sunday school team members with important information about the children in their care. We also request that all parents complete an allergy form for any child with allergies and supply for us a picture to include on this form.

1. Allergy forms are posted in the rooms along with the child's picture.
2. Registration and allergy forms are available at the welcome table or by contacting the Children's ministry department.

Safety Plan

Monmouth Christian Church Children's Ministry is happy to announce a department wide SAFETY PLAN for your children. This plan is focused on creative preventive discipline (classroom management); a consistent department wide corrective discipline and consequences policy. We want to provide safety and discipline, NOT punishment. Our team members are firm, fair, and affectionate.

*** (Preschoolers will use the term: Be kind to instead of "Respect".)***

- Respect yourself! (No risky behavior or words that might hurt yourself)
- Respect others! (No hurtful words or actions towards others)
- Respect property! (Do not hurt ON PURPOSE any property of yours, others, or the church's. Also report any accidental property damage immediately to your team member.)

Our team members review this plan briefly each week with your children, as well as the following consequences:

1st time: A gentle reminder.

2nd time: Time out with team member or helper. Clarification of policy and prayer together.

3rd time: Removal from class and taken to parent or guardian.

Ongoing problem: Parent or guardian will be asked to sit in class with the child until child develops sufficient self-control.

For Your Child Care

You can help your child's care be the best it can be by following these guidelines:

Labeling - Please label ALL of your child's things. This includes bottles, cups, clothing, diapers, wipes, etc. These items get easily confused with others in the room. We are not able to label everything or keep up with unlabeled items. We are not responsible for lost or misplaced items.

There is a lost and found for any items left in the Education wing. Please check with one of the children's ministry team to view items. Items are donated every six months to charity if not claimed.

Diaper Bags - For babies and toddlers, please bring a clearly labeled diaper bag with extra wipes, diapers and a change of clothes. We also ask that you provide bottles or cups as well.

Pacifiers - If your child takes one, it must be attached to your child's clothes. These get lost easily and traded with other children if not attached.

Snacks/Meals - We provide various crackers/cheerios and water for children 9 months old and older. If your child has any food allergies, we ask that you notify us immediately, use the allergy form to provide us with pertinent information on the allergy. We will also provide allergy stickers for your child's room, please provide approved snacks for your child.

Special Concerns - Please let us know of any special concerns you have with your child to help us provide the best care for him/her. These may include: teething, potty training, needing a special toy or blanket, having family, behavioral, medical or developmental issues. We will work with parents to accommodate their child's needs. If your child has special needs that require full time attentiveness, please let us know this. We can work with you to find a mentor/care provider for your child.

Separation Anxiety - Sometimes children have a hard time separating from Mom and Dad at church. There may be difficult periods of adjustment for your child as he/she learns independence, but is scared of too much and fears separation from his/her parents. This is called separation anxiety and it can happen to any baby or child. Here are some tips that may help the transition go more smoothly for your child:

1. Take a wrist coil and make sure to designate where you can be found so we can contact you if needed. (ie: Heritage Hall or Worship Center).
2. Avoid rushing your child. Have a routine at home, especially in the mornings, when getting out the door can be chaotic.
3. Take the time to label all of your child's belongings at home so drop-off isn't delayed.
4. Make sure your child is well rested & fed before coming to church. Snacks are provided but are not meals.
5. Please do not bring your child if he/she is showing any signs of illness. (see Child Wellness)
6. On the way to church, talk with your child about enjoyable activities or people he/she will encounter at church. Be positive and reassuring.
7. Establish a routine as you bring your child each time. Ex. Come the same way at the same time to drop off your child.

When you drop your child off, please leave immediately. Prolonged departures make matters worse, be swift yet reassuring to your child.

Be prompt when you pick up your child. It is hard to be the last one. Even the most well adjusted child may get anxious and fearful when all the others have departed.

Be as regular as possible. Even one absence may make your child feel like a stranger again. Staying away will not improve the situation.

Reassurance, plenty of love and consistent attendance can help out a lot with the problem over time.