



Children's Ministry Policies & Guidelines

Check-In for Families & Guests

In an effort to avoid interruption of our children's programs and create a more consistent environment for our nursery-age children, we are introducing the following guidelines for check-in and drop-off:

- Please check-in your children BEFORE the program begins.
- If you are bringing a guest, please be sure to arrive 15 min. early so they can register in a timely manner.
- On Sunday mornings we ask that you DO NOT wait to check-in your Pre-K – 3rd grade children during dismissal from the Worship service. This adds additional traffic in the halls while we escort the children to their classrooms, delays their participation, and compromises the attendance process.
- Check-in and drop-off opportunities close 15 min. after the program has started (nursery children are an exception). If you arrive more than 15 minutes late to a program, kindly keep your child with you for the duration of the program.
- If you arrive early for the Sunday Worship Service, Sunday School will still be in session. For nursery aged children, please wait to drop off your children until 9:45 am.

Worship Service

Children in the service are wonderful blessings as we worship God together. If you choose to keep your child in the service, we still want to encourage you in that! However, we also want to help those around you worship God with minimal distractions.

Please do your best to help your children be considerate of those around you. If you bring toys, please ensure they are quiet and not messy. If your child is kicking or touching others, please gently restrain them. If they are making noise and you cannot help them quiet down in a reasonable time frame, please take them to our newly designated space for families where you can be free to shepherd them as needed.

Family Space (The Hub)

If your child becomes restless or needs a break, we invite you to use The Hub, a designated space where parents (or another responsible adult) and children can still hear the service while allowing kids a bit more freedom to move or make noise if needed. This means the Hub is no longer available during the service for others. Please join us in the service or utilize the lobby if you are unable to do so.

Children & Students Supervision

To keep our children and students safe and participating in the life of our church, we ask that all children not in a children's ministry and all students who are not serving be in the Worship Center during the service. If a student needs to be in the lobby or another area outside the Worship Center, a guardian or responsible adult must be with the student unless a security team member or staff personnel has been informed of a unique circumstance. If a child or student is seen wandering the halls or sitting outside the Worship Center without an adult present during the service, they will be asked by staff or security to find their guardian or enter the Worship Center.

Reminder: Children's Ministries Available: We offer a nursery and children's church (Skyrocket & Blast Off) for children from newborn through 3rd grade. We still encourage you to take advantage of these ministries as needed.

Wellness Guidelines

Cedar Crest desires to prevent the spread of communicable diseases among children and volunteers within our ministries. We ask that all staff, parents and volunteers be familiar with, and abide by, the following Wellness Guidelines.

A child should not be placed in the nursery or attend Children's Ministry classes or activities when any of the following exist:

- Fever (100 degrees or higher) Children must be fever-free without medication for 24 hours
- Vomiting, or Diarrhea Vomiting or diarrhea-free for 24 hours.
- Severe Coughing
- Severe Runny Nose
- Any unusual rashes or skin / eye infections

PLEASE NOTE

- A parent may be requested to remove their child from ministry care if they appear sick.
- Childcare Workers will NOT administer medication of any kind.
- If a child contracts a highly contagious communicable illness (hand-foot-and-mouth, chickenpox, meningitis, measles) and has been in contact with other children while at CCBFC, parents have the responsibility to urgently notify the church so that other families may be notified, as necessary, and extra care cleaning may be taken.

Correction

At Cedar Crest, our Children's Ministry is dedicated to providing a Christ-centered environment where children can grow spiritually, build meaningful relationships, and learn to reflect God's love in their actions. In support of this mission, we are implementing a new policy to equip our volunteer leaders with effective tools to guide classroom behavior and foster a stronger partnership with you, the parents.

Our goal is to lovingly redirect negative behavior while providing opportunities for children to grow and learn how to honor God in their interactions with others. Below, we've outlined the expectations for children and teachers in our ministry, as well as the steps that will be taken if a child needs further guidance.

Classroom Expectations for Children

Beginning in our preschool-aged classes (age 4), we encourage children to:

- Listen attentively during Bible time and group activities.
- Share with one another, take turns, and treat others with kindness and respect.
- Follow instructions and respond to their teachers with obedience and respect.

Responsibilities of Volunteer Leaders

Our leaders are committed to:

- Creating a loving, respectful, and orderly atmosphere where children feel safe, encouraged, and valued.
- Using positive reinforcement and gentle correction to address behavior concerns.
- Modeling Christlike behavior and providing consistent, thoughtful guidance.

Teachers are never permitted to yell at, spank, or physically discipline children.

Reflection Point System

If a child exhibits disruptive or disrespectful behavior, teachers will first use verbal reminders, redirection, and other positive strategies to address the behavior. However, if the behavior continues, a **Reflection Point** will be issued.

Reflection Points provide an opportunity for children to pause, reflect, and learn, with parents being informed and invited to engage in the process. If a child receives **three Reflection Points within a six-week period**, parents will have two options to choose from as they shepherd their children through this time of reflection.

Option 1: At-Home Reflection

Overview: Your child steps back from class for two weeks to reflect on their behavior at home.

- **Parent Role:** Use the at-home reflection guide to help your child understand the behavior that led to this period, celebrate successes, and set goals for improvement.
- **Key Benefits:**
 - Personalized time with your child to address specific behaviors.
 - Flexibility to tailor discussions and activities to your family's schedule.

Option 2: In-Class Supervision

Overview: Attend class with your child for two weeks to offer direct support and encouragement.

- **Parent Role:** Sit with your child during class, providing guidance as needed.
- **Key Benefits:**
 - Your child experiences consistent classroom routines with added parental support.
 - Opportunity to model positive behavior and encourage participation.

In rare cases of severe behavior (e.g., intentional harm to another child or teacher or refusal to comply with classroom guidance), the child will be immediately removed from class, and parents will be contacted for further discussion.

Partnering with Parents

We believe this new system offers an opportunity for us to work together to help children grow in Christlike behavior. As parents, you play a vital role in shaping your child's heart and character. Our goal is to provide tools and resources you may find helpful to guide your child toward success, both in class and beyond.

If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please feel free to reach out to the Children's Ministry team. Thank you for trusting us to partner with you in the spiritual growth and care of your children. We are grateful for your partnership as we nurture a Christ-centered community for all families.

Photos & Permission

At CCBFC, we occasionally take photos or videos of children during programs and events for promotional and ministry-related purposes.

If you prefer that your child not be photographed or recorded, please let us know. We will make every effort to honor your request and ensure your preferences are respected.