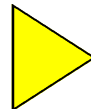


Crossroads

Children's Ministry

Kids

INFORMATIONAL



BOOK



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This book is provided to you in an effort to inform parents as to the policy & procedures of the Children's Ministry at Crossroads. If you have any questions or comments please call 477-2229 or email us at mr.jim@embarqmail.com.



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OUR VISION

Our vision is to foster in each child the desire to discover God in a personal way, leaving an eternal imprint of God's love on his/her life.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Crossroads Kids Children's Ministry is to:

- Impact the children of our community with the message of Christ's love for them.
- Encourage children to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior and become a part of our church family.
- Facilitate the child's growth in his/her relationship with Jesus Christ and His Word.
- Foster skill building through relevant biblical teaching, positive role modeling and esteem building.
- Prepare children to discover their uniqueness and eventually God's mission for their lives.

THE GOALS OF CROSSROADS KIDS ARE:

- To provide a safe, secure, loving environment for children to participate in—where parents feel comfortable leaving their children.
- To help children feel a warm sense of belonging to their church family and to insure each child feels welcomed and wanted.
- For each child to know that God is real and that a personal relationship with Him gives meaning to life.
- To aid each child in accepting Jesus Christ and developing a dynamic relationship with Him.
- To help each child develop a lifestyle that is built on his/her relationship with Jesus Christ.

- To help each child understand that God’s Word (the Bible) is relevant and growth in Bible knowledge results in positive changes in attitude, action and lifestyle.
- To help the child grow in his/her relationship with other believers and with his/her non-churched friends.
- To provide children the opportunity and direction to participate in ministry.
- To support the family in their responsibility for the spiritual nurture and growth of their child.
- To provide Godly men and women who are adequately trained to serve as positive role models while they minister with children.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

At Crossroads Christian Church, we take the passage from Luke 18:16 to heart, “But Jesus called the children to him and said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.’” In order to accomplish this, we need parents to help in a variety of capacities.

If your child is a regular participant in our programs, **you are needed to serve in some area of the children’s ministry.** Our programs are staffed entirely with volunteers.

We do realize that not everyone is gifted in teaching and most of our positions do not require the ability to teach nor a commitment for life!

Can you play with the kids? Are you artistic? Can you act? Perform puppets? Sing? Interact well with people? Work with a computer? Take pictures? If you can answer “yes” to any of these questions, we’ve got a place for you!

“If your child is a regular participant in our programs, you are needed to serve in some area of the children’s ministry.”

MEN AND WOMEN ARE NEEDED AS ROLE MODELS TO CONVEY TO THESE CHILDREN THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH

We are laying the most important foundations of their lives. Opportunities are available on Sundays and Wednesdays. You will be provided with training, support and materials.

SERVING THE LORD IS A PRIVILEGE THAT SHOULD BE ENJOYED

It should not be viewed as merely a duty or obligation. We believe that people are more fulfilled when they serve in areas of their giftedness; therefore we seek to match people accordingly. For more information about opportunities to serve in Crossroads Kids, please complete the form on the back cover of this book and return it to the Children's Welcome Center.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR PARENTS

Sometimes during the early years, there may be difficult periods of adjustment for your child. He may not want to stay in his department without you. Be patient. Talk about Sunday School and keep remarks positive. Staying away from Sunday School will not help his problem. Reassurance, plenty of love, and consistent attendance will sometimes take care of the problem.

At the department door, do not attempt to slip away from your child - little eyes and minds are quick. Tell him in a kind, firm voice that you

"At the department door, do not attempt to slip away from your child - little eyes and minds are quick. Tell him in a kind, firm voice that you are going, but will be back soon."

are going, but will be back soon. Then leave immediately. It will not be necessary for you to "check" on him between Sunday School and Worship Services. If your child continues to be upset, a volunteer will come get you or you will see your security ID number scroll on the screen in the Worship Center.

Attempt to pick up your child quickly so that he does not wait long after all the others

have gone. This will help avoid the "left" feeling. Above all, love him in his less-than-confident times.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION:

FIRE ALARM

If the fire alarm should go off during the service, please do not come to the nursery, early childhood or elementary rooms. The teachers and caregivers' primary concern is to get the children out of the building safely and quickly.

During the fire alarm, the children will NOT be released to the parents under any circumstances. In the confusion of a fire alarm, security tags and pick-up procedures cannot be checked properly. When the children are returned to their rooms, parents will then be able to pick them up. Please understand that this is for the safety of your child.

TORNADO

In the event of a tornado, children will be moved to the interior classrooms or hallways without windows. Children will not be released to their parents until the "all clear" signal has been given and proper check - out procedures are completed.

ILLNESS

We ask that you keep your child home when any of the following symptoms and/or illness occur:

- Fever greater than 99.5°F in the past 24 hours.
- Runny nose that is thick & white, yellow or green in color.
- Unidentified or contagious rashes.
- Coughing.
- Diarrhea or vomiting (last episode must have been at least 24 hours ago.).
- Impetigo
- Active Chicken Pox.
- Measles.
- Mumps.
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye).

If your child is being treated with antibiotics, he/she needs to have been taking the medicine for at least 48 hours before you bring them to any children's program. If your child has a continually clear runny nose or a rash due to non-contagious allergies, please let us know. We realize that some symptoms hang on long after the child is no longer contagious. Remember, we want all of our children to remain healthy and happy!

DISCIPLINE:

The Children's Ministry has 5 Class Rules to live by. They are: Respect Others, Respect God, Respect Church Property, Respect Yourself, and Have Fun. The following procedures will be used when disciplining a child.

1. First time - the child is given a warning with the child understanding what their inappropriate behavior is.
2. Second time - the child is reminded of the inappropriate behavior and moved to another seat in the classroom.
3. Third time - the child is removed from the classroom and either taken to the Children's Minister or taken to his/her parents.

You will be given a "Discipline Notice" card which says:

"One of the many Bible truths we learn from the life of David, is that God disciplines those He loves, namely His children. My goal is to assist you as parents to lovingly and scripturally discipline your child while here at the church. You are receiving this notice as a result of my attempt to keep you informed about your child's behavior, and is only handed out after the third warning has been given. Listed below are the class rules that may have been broken, and what action I need you to take. Thanks for your cooperation. Your input is vital to the Children's Ministry here at Crossroads Christian Church."

PROCEDURES FOR ENTERING "CROSSROADS KIDS" (THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY)

We are very excited about our new security system in the Children's Ministry. Because "Children are Special at Crossroads", we are implementing this new program.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO REGISTERING MY CHILD?

- Children are provided a laminated security ID tag to wear during children's ministry programming.
- A parent ID card is provided for parents to use when retrieving their children from class.
- The child's security ID tag and the parent ID card indicate a family security ID number to be used if a parent needs to be contacted during services.
- Each registered child is assigned to an age appropriate Bible class and is added to the class roster.
- Registered children will receive mailings regarding children's activities such as Bible camps, children's concerts, game nights and other special activities.

WHO CAN REGISTER?

- Parents are encouraged to register their children once they have decided to become regular attendees and consider Crossroads to be their "church home".
- Families do not have to be members of Crossroads in order to register.

WHERE?...

You may start the registration process at the Children's Guest Services located in the main foyer.

WHEN?...

Registration is normally conducted on Sundays, 9 to 9:30 AM and 10:30 - 11:00 AM.

HOW IT WORKS...

1. Parents fill out a registration form giving important information about their children.
2. Photos are taken of parents and any other adults you have authorized to pick up your child from class.
3. A laminated security ID tag will be made for your child and their diaper bag (if needed).
4. A laminated parent ID card will be made with your picture and family security ID number.
5. The process takes approximately 1-2 weeks to complete. When the tag and ID card are ready you will be contacted and informed of where the tag and ID card will be located. *Please Note: Parents must continue to sign their child in at the Children's Guest Services until the child's tag and parent ID card are ready.*
6. Parents will retrieve the child's tag and parent's ID card from their child's security envelope. Attach the child's tag to your child and keep the parent's ID card for pick-up.
7. Parents will give their child's teacher or children's church worker their parent ID card when retrieving their child after service.
8. All security ID tags and parent ID cards will be automatically re-filed and are available for use for the next program.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY PROGRAMMING

Children are assigned to classes by their birth date. Your child will be in the same class until the middle of August. Each August we will promote children to their next class. Your child's grade at school will be your child's grade at church.

SUNDAY MORNING

9:30 AM - Sunday School/Child Care (Birth - 4th Grade)

9:30 AM - Worship (5th and 6th Grade)

10:55 AM - KID'S Church/Child Care (Birth - 4th Grade)

10:55 AM - Club 56 Sunday School (5th and 6th Grade)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Child Care (Birth - 2)

Cherub Choir & King's Kids Choir (3 - 6th Grade)

Small Groups (Ages 3—4th Grade)

Club 56 (5th & 6th Grade)

SUNDAY MORNINGS:

CHILDCARE-9:30 & 10:55 (6 weeks-24 months)

BIBLE SCHOOL-9:30 (Ages 2-4th Grade)

WEE WORSHIP-10:55 (Ages 3 - Kindergarten)

Wee Worship gives the kids a chance to come together as a large group where they:

- Sing praises to the Lord.
- Participate in an active Bible Lesson.
- Make a craft that helps in their understanding of the lesson.
- Learn that God loves them and made them very special!

WORSHIP-9:30 (5th & 6th Grade)

The 5th & 6th graders participate in the service that is held in the Worship Center.

KIDS CHURCH-10:55 (1st - 4th Grade)

This is HOT!!! It's our Jr. Church Program that is exciting the kids from first through fourth grade! This is what "church" is all about! Songs are sung louder and with more energy than you'll ever hear in adult worship, a message from God's Word that matches what was taught in Bible School is delivered, communion is offered, offering is taken,

learning is happening, and excitement continues to build!

If you have not checked out **KIDS Church**, you are missing one of the most exciting programs offered! Don't miss another Sunday! Invite your friends and come praise the Lord with us!

CLUB 56 BIBLE SCHOOL-10:55 (5th & 6th Grade)

Club 56 is a special program that ministers directly to the needs of the 5th and 6th graders. It is in this group that the kids learn what God suggests about how they deal with the changes, pressures and circumstances that arise in their life.

**KIDS Church -
This is what "church" is
all about!**

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS:

CHILDCARE-7:00 (6 weeks-2 years)

CHERUB CHOIR-6:00 (Ages 3-Kindergarten)

Singing, moving, playing rhythm band instruments and praising Jesus! That's what Cherub Choir is all about. This group is for children who are age 3 through Kindergarten. The Cherubs present short musical programs throughout the year. The music they learn is a wonderful tool that teaches the children stories from the Bible, Christian virtues and Scripture texts.

KING'S KIDS CHOIR-6:00 (1st-6th Grade)

King's Kids is a choir for children in grades 1 – 6. While preparing two musicals each year, the children learn scripture and Biblical principles. They also develop teamwork and leadership skills. These musicals also provide the children the opportunities to use their various talents and gifts to honor and glorify the Lord Jesus. Most importantly, King's Kids encourages the children to live a life of worship.

SMALL GROUPS -7:00 (Ages 3 - 6th Grade)

Ages 3 – the 4th grade will enjoy learning about God's love by using Group's Hand-On Bible Study curriculum.

- The kids will have plenty of fun--because they're free to really enjoy each one-point Bible lesson! Kids dive into activities with enthusiasm and remember what they learn.
- It's full of Discovery! Each lesson is packed with surprises, so children stay attentive, eager for the next activity. Our unique teaching tools (we call them gizmos) reinforce the Bible points. You'll help children clearly discover the truths of God's word--in fresh, exciting ways!

Club 56 (5th & 6th Grades) will be using Group's "brand new" Grapple curriculum. Grapple is the all-new small group curriculum designed *especially* for 5th-6th graders. Grapple is the **ONLY** preteen Sunday school curriculum offering an online community during the week!

- Each quarter the kids are introduced to **12 attention-grabbing** lessons where they will dig into the Bible to grapple with faith and life issues. Each topic is approved by a Preteen Panel, so you'll

stay relevant, Wednesday after Wednesday. From *What if Jesus is a liar?* to *Why can't I go to PG-13 movies?* preteens will grapple with real-life issues.

- PLUS, the preteens get their very own safe and secure online community to connect with each other—and the Small Group leaders! Each child in the Small Group can have a personal page...post God sightings and prayer requests...send messages within your group...even journal and post comments on friends' pages. Imagine your kids interacting with the Small Group Leaders and each other with their questions, comments, concerns--all week long. Preteens want to be online. Parents want online experiences to be safe and positive. Grapple takes care of everyone! And parents are pleased too! Parents are assured their kids will be safe because they sign a parent consent form before their kids get access, and they have access where they can see what their kids are doing online, find out about Grapple, retrieve safety tips, and view announcements. Plus, Grapple gives leaders e-mailable parent connections so parents get practical advice about preteens.

SPECIAL EVENTS...

GAME NIGHTS-

These provide an opportunity for the children to get together and play some new and very exciting games. Two nights are planned for each Early Childhood and Elementary age group per year. Don't forget, your children's friends are always welcome.

TERRIFIC TUESDAYS-

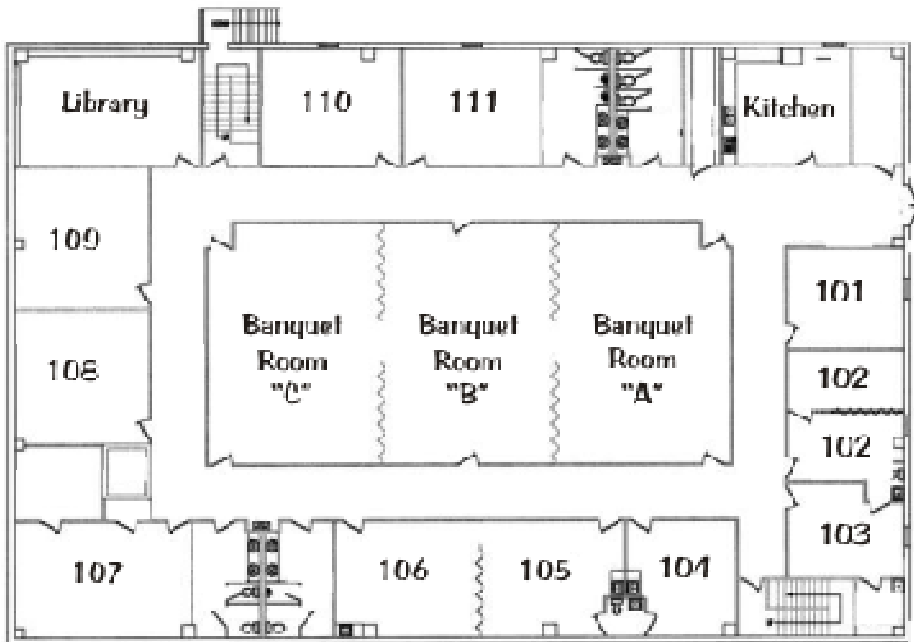
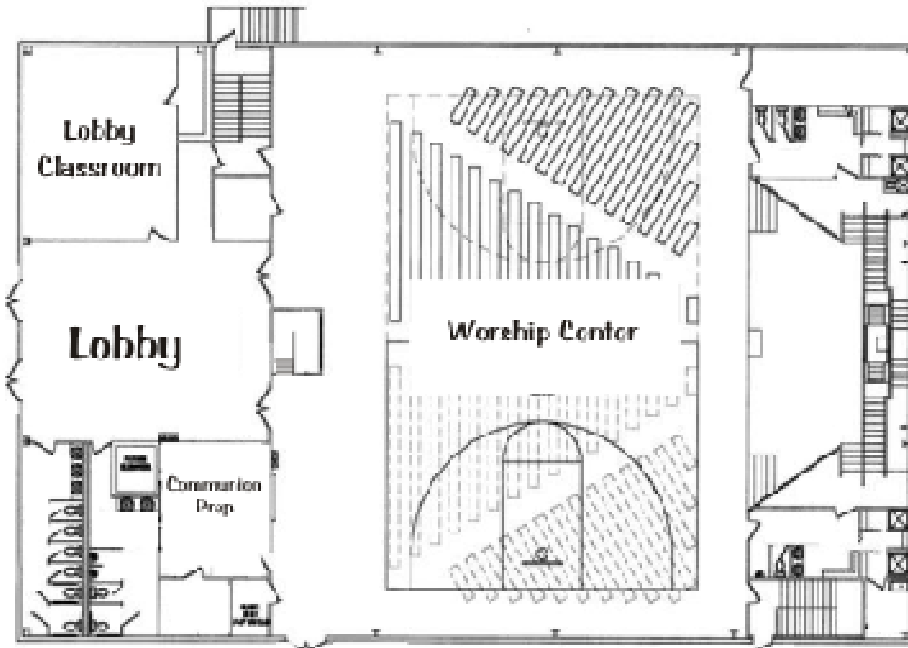
During the summer, the elementary ministry plans trips to various near-by places to enjoy the morning, afternoon or maybe the entire day! This is a great opportunity to reach out to friends and show them just how much fun there is when a bunch of Christians get together.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL-

VBS is a week that is filled with fun and excitement for everyone! The kids are placed in small groups where they travel from one awesome activity to another. On their travels, they will watch bible stories come to life, participate in energizing games, eat snacks & make crafts that go right along with the theme and come together with everyone else to sing some action packed songs. This is one event that all kids enjoy!

OTHER ACTIVITIES-

Many other exciting events occur throughout the year - Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas Musical, Candy Carnival, Summer Camp, Club 56 Lock-In, and much more. Keep your eyes open for these events as they are promoted through the Sunday bulletin, KIDS Church, the newsletter and in the children's classes.



BE A PART OF THE CROSSROADS KIDS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Fill out the information below, tear out this page and give it to one of the volunteers at the Children's Guest Service Center. A member of our Children's Ministry will get in touch with you to discuss where your gifts can be most beneficial to the ministry and where you will be most fulfilled.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Check the area or areas that you are interested in:

Nursery (Birth - Age 2)

Early Childhood (Age 3 - Kindergarten)

Elementary (1st - 4th Grade)

Club 56 (5th & 6th Grade)

Children's Guest Services

