

Standards for Children's Ministries

Based out of the Mission and Vision Statement of Children's Ministries of Bethel Church of San Jose, the classroom opportunities and experiences provided to children and families will be structured to work in partnership with parents and families establishing a Biblically sound spiritual foundation in young hearts and minds that will facilitate the transformation of children into spiritual champions.

Structure:

Each learning environment and session is strategically designed to provide opportunity for children to further develop their abilities and knowledge, helping to foster growth in four vital areas: Mentally, Spiritually, Emotionally, and Physically.

Children's Ministries offers:

1. Venues staffed with a Ministry Team of Volunteers.
 - Ministry Team members have completed a clearance process that includes: a Volunteer Application Form, personal reference inquiries, interview, and fingerprint clearance (screening with the FBI, DOJ, and the Child Abuse Index – for all adults and youth over age 18). All Ministry Team members are under the supervision of a Department Director and the Department Pastors.
2. Structured curriculum that is Bible centered, with practical applications and creative expression – all in a manner that is interesting and age appropriate for the children (i.e. fun!)
 - The classroom experience is just that – a “classroom” experience. While the Ministry Team of Volunteers plans a variety of activities that will be fun, they are designed to be developmental steps that build upon one another, week after week. Children's Ministries is not “baby sitting” !
3. Opportunities for parental participation in the classroom.
 - Parents are asked to participate with “hands-on” time in the classroom, aiding the Ministry Team of Volunteers in providing the best environment possible for the spiritual nurturing and instruction of their children.
4. Opportunities for children to learn about Christ, develop ministry abilities, nurture Christian friendships, and develop a Biblical worldview.
 - It is our desire to see each child make a commitment to live their life according to God's Word, growing in spiritual maturity leading to baptism in water and the Holy Spirit during their elementary school-age years.
 - Provide venues for leadership and ministry through serving on the JLT, helping in classrooms, partnering with younger children having special needs, participating with the worship band. tech team, or other ministry teams.

Children's Ministries asks that Parents:

1. Be aware of the great value of consistent spiritual instruction both in the home and in the classroom at church.
 - Steady attendance and participation help to develop a Biblical worldview with Jesus Christ at the center. These childhood experiences will help a child grow in their relationship with God and establish a reliance upon His caring provision throughout their child's lifetime.
2. To build a personal relationship with the Ministry Team of Volunteers which faithfully serve Christ through ministry to their children.

Children's Ministries expects Students:

1. To participate in a positive manner, within the age appropriate level for that classroom.
2. To demonstrate behavior that is respectful of other students and the Ministry Team.

If behavior occurs that requires immediate attention, the Ministry Team should follow these steps to correct actions as needed:

- i. The teacher may speak to the child in a caring yet direct manner, addressing the inappropriate behavior, and providing alternatives for more appropriate behavior (never sarcastic or humiliating).
- ii. The teacher may move the child to another seat or position to help redirect attention in a positive manner.
- iii. The teacher may contact the Department Director, requesting assistance in the classroom.
- iv. The teacher or Department Director may contact the parent/guardian immediately to come to the classroom to assist their child.
- v. The Department Director may ask the parent/guardian to either remain in the classroom as a personal "buddy" with their child until consistent positive interaction is achieved; or the Department Director may speak with the parent/guardian about having the child wait to reenter the classroom until the child is able to participate more appropriately within the classroom environment.

While Children's Ministries aim is to provide a safe, encouraging, growing and fun experience for all children, we recognize that we might not be able to meet certain unique needs of all families. It is a distinct privilege and yet weighty responsibility to minister to children, and the Children's Ministries Department at Bethel Church of San Jose takes this responsibility very seriously. We will do our best to provide an environment that will be a positive ingredient in building strong spiritual foundations for your children, facilitating the Holy Spirit's work of transforming them into spiritual champions.