

Preschool Ministry Information Booklet

*Equipping and Encouraging Children and their Families to
Develop and Grow in their Relationship with Jesus Christ*



Friendly Avenue
Baptist Church

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WELCOME!

Welcome to Friendly Avenue Baptist Church. We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning. Friendly Avenue has throughout its history made the safety and security of children a priority. As we serve your child and your family through activities of worship, evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, and ministry, we trust you will consider Friendly Avenue a place your family can call home.

PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY TO CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Friendly Avenue Baptist Church derives its philosophy of ministry to children and their families directly from the Scriptures (see Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4–9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26–28; Psalms 78:1–8; 127; 139:13–16; Proverbs 1:8; 6:20–22; 13:24; 17:6; 22:6, 15; 23:13–14; 29:15,17; Matthew 18:2–5; Mark 10:13–16; Luke 18:15–17; Ephesians 6:1–4; Colossians 3:20–21; 2 Timothy 1:3–5). As the Baptist Faith and Message (2000) states in Article XVIII. The Family: *“Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.”*

Therefore, upon these biblical and doctrinal foundations, **Friendly Avenue Baptist Church’s ministry to children and their families exists to equip and encourage them to develop and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.**

The goal of the Nursery/Preschool Department at Friendly Avenue Baptist Church is to provide safe, comprehensive child care and Christian discipleship for children and their families in order to bring them into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Objectives are to encourage children to:

- Feel cared for and secure
- Begin to understand Jesus' love and teachings
- Develop small and large motor skills
- Learn songs and Bible stories and to apply Bible teaching to their lives as they age
- Enjoy and achieve success in learning
- Learn through play
- Express themselves creatively through language, poetry, movement, art, and music
- Appreciate beauty and gain awareness of God's world
- Work and play cooperatively with others.

It is believed that these objectives can be best carried out through a positive approach, where the child is recognized for desirable behavior, rather than gaining attention for undesirable behavior. Our aim is to teach children to follow Christ's example of loving others.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

Preschool children have the opportunity to receive child care and discipleship activities at the following times:

SUNDAY MORNING: 8:10 a.m.– 12:15 p.m.

Nursery and/or discipleship activities are provided during the Early Service (8:15 a.m.), in the Sunday School hour/during Contemporary Service (9:30 a.m.), and during the third Worship Service/second Sunday School hour (10:45 a.m.).

SUNDAY EVENING: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Nursery	Birth–Preschool 2's
Cherub Choir	Preschool 3's and 4's

WEDNESDAY EVENING: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Nursery	Birth–Preschool 2's
Team Kid	Preschool 3's– Kindergarten

As parents of preschoolers, we hope you will share in the rotation of nursery duties. Please see our Minister to Children and Families to sign up for a time. Workers must be at least 16 years of age. Criminal background checks are performed on volunteers.

RECEIVING AND DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN

Procedures for receiving and dismissal of children follow:

1. Visiting and member preschoolers should register at the Preschool Welcome Center. Parents must indicate the class/worship service in which they can be located in case of emergency. At check-in, parents and children are given corresponding identification tags. A paging system will be in effect and used with preschool children. Parents must present tags and return pager when children are picked up. (*Adults picking up children must be on the child's registration form as approved to pick up children.*)
2. Parents of babies are asked to complete a special information sheet on the first visit. These sheets are designed to aid teachers and other caregivers in knowing the child's habits, allergies, sleep and eating patterns.
3. Preschoolers may be received as early as 10 minutes before each session, and should be picked up immediately following a church function. Preschoolers are easily upset when they are the last ones in the room. Parents will be paged if necessary.

4. A child should not be left in a preschool room unless a caregiver is present. If you arrive before the teachers or other caregivers, please remain with your preschooler until a caregiver arrives and is ready to receive your child. Two workers should be present in each preschool classroom.

5. Following an event or service, identification tags/pagers should be returned in order to retrieve children. In an effort to eliminate confusion and crowding, it will be appreciated if only one or two parents or guardians come to pick up a child – and not the whole family.

FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS

Parents of preschoolers under age 2 may provide filled plastic bottles or cups labeled with the child's name. A refrigerator is available for chilling. We will provide any snacks needed for preschoolers ages 2 and up.

Snacks and food activities are a common occurrence in the Preschool Department. **If your child has any food allergies, please notify his/her teacher.**

Because of the prevalence of peanut allergies, we maintain a **peanut-free environment**. For this reason, please do not allow your child to bring peanuts or products manufactured in a peanut processing unit.

Hot liquids are not allowed in the preschool when children are present.

POLICIES FOR HEALTH AND HYGIENE

It is important that the health of all children be protected. Procedures listed below must be followed:

1. Parental Support – Parents are asked not to bring their children to a church program or function if they display **ANY** of the following conditions:

- Temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or more in the last 24 hours
- Runny nose with colored mucus
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea in the last 24 hours
- Coughing (croup; infections)
- Pink eye
- Head or body lice
- Undiagnosed rash
- Open skin lesions or skin infection (i.e., boils, ring worm, impetigo, etc.)
- Respiratory infection
- Sore throat
- Any symptom of infectious childhood disease such as scarlet fever, mumps, measles, chicken pox, etc.

2. Classroom Procedures – Procedures listed below will be followed.

- Wearing of non-latex or rubber gloves is required when changing diapers. Clean gloves are used with each individual diaper change.
- The changing area is disinfected with a state-approved cleaning solution (1 part bleach to 10 parts water) and clean paper towels after each diaper change.
- All gloves and diapers containing feces are sealed in individual plastic bags before disposal.
- Workers' hands are washed/disinfected after each diaper change.
- Workers must be at least sixteen years of age and have been approved after a criminal background check.

3. First-Aid – First-aid procedures are followed as indicated below:

- Children who become ill during a church activity are isolated from other children in another room, and parents are notified immediately.

- Minor injuries are treated by teachers or other caregivers. First-aid supplies are located in the hall closet. An accident sheet is completed for anything other than minor cuts/bruises. Parents will receive a copy of this accident sheet.
 - If an illness or injury appears to require medical attention, caregivers will 1) Contact the parent; 2) Telephone 911 if circumstances warrant; and/or 3) Contact a church staff member.
 - Gloves are worn by workers when they administer first-aid.
 - Children's medications are **NOT** administered by workers.
 - Parents are asked to provide the preschool teachers with a written record of serious allergies, health/behavioral problems, and/or special needs.
- 4. Sanitation and Safety** – In the interests of good sanitation and child safety, the following guidelines are followed:
- On Sunday morning, snacks are provided for children ages 2 and up.

- All surfaces are disinfected with a state-approved cleaning solution (described above) after each use (including tables, countertops, changing areas, and cribs).
 - Prechoolers are not permitted in the bottle-preparation area.
 - Toys and equipment are sanitized by workers with state-approved solution.
5. Classes are **NEVER** left unattended for any reason.
 6. Children who continuously misbehave, disobey, and disrupt classes may be placed in “time-out” (one minute for each year of age) within the classroom, so as not to disturb or cause harm to other children. Should the “time-out” not succeed, the parent may be notified.

PERSONAL ITEMS

Please provide a diaper bag for your child, which includes the following items:

1. Two or three disposable diapers;
2. Pacifier or other item, should your child need it for security;
3. A complete change of clothes in case your child should require it (***Please label bag with clothes***);
4. A bottle of milk, formula, juice or water (***Please label with your child's first and last name***).

Please label all personal items (including diaper bag) **with your child's first and last name** before arriving. Preschool children should not bring personal toys or playthings (other than security/ soothing items for infant preschoolers). We do encourage preschoolers to bring Bibles, which should be labeled with their names.

Preschoolers are often involved in art activities. We will do our best to protect clothing, but occasional soiling may occur.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

In the event of an emergency that requires that the building must be evacuated (i.e., fire, gas leak, etc.), children's workers will take all children to the fenced playground area adjacent to Jefferson Road. Each child will be released into the care and custody of his/her parent and/or guardian when you present your identification tag that matches your child's to the children's worker.

AMENITIES FOR NURSING MOTHERS

Nursing mothers may use the room adjoining the
Preschool Welcome Center (near the nursery).
Rockers and comfortable chairs are available there.

**THANK YOU FOR SHARING
YOUR PRECIOUS CHILDREN WITH US!**

We are delighted to have
your family at Friendly Avenue.

Please call 292-3567 for more information.