

Religious Education



Safety Guidelines

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*Our Doors,
Ears & Hearts
are Always Open...*

Guidelines for Children of All Ages

Staffing for Safety

One of our goals is to provide adequate staffing in classrooms. We generally have one full time staff person and one or more volunteers. Since we only have one full time staffed position per class, we rely heavily upon our membership for volunteers. **If your child is cared for in any of the religious education classrooms, we would very much appreciate one of the parents (dads are welcome, too!) to volunteer about once every five to six weeks.** It is our policy that two adults be present in each room. If we do not have two adults present, the classroom will be closed that day.

Medication

Our staff is not adequately trained to dispense any type of medication. If your child requires medication, please remind a staff member that you will be coming to the classroom at the appropriate time to administer it.

Illness

If your child becomes ill or injured during the service, one of the staff will quietly come to you during service and bring you back to the classroom. For the health and safety of all children, the staff, and the peace of mind of other parents, children that have had the following symptoms within the last 24 hours will not be accepted:

- Fever
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Yeast Infection, monilia, thrush
- Impetigo (infected wounds), boils, untreated ringworms
- Runny nose with green or yellow mucus discharge
- Communicable eye infections, conjunctivitis (pink-eye)
- Contagious skin rash
- Cough, croup (except in the case of allergy)
- Any symptom of usual childhood disease such as mumps, measles, chicken pox
- Use of antibiotics for 24 hours or less.

Early Childhood Guidelines

Ages

Children from crawling age and up to the age of four are accepted for care in the Early Childhood classroom. We are not appropriately staffed to ensure the safety or quality of care for younger infants. For parents with younger children, please feel free to have your child in the service with you.

Older Children Not Allowed in EC Classroom

For safety reasons, we do not allow children above Early Childhood age to enter the nursery rooms before or during service time. Older children do not always understand the care and maintenance of a room for small children. They can leave small objects that could be choking hazards, unplug safety devices, etc.

If you see older children in the Early Childhood classroom at any time, please ask them to leave or notify the staff. Older children may enter the room after their parents have picked all of the Early Childhood children up.

Drop Off and Pick Up

The Early Childhood staff will begin accepting children 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the service.

There will be a child sign-in sheet at the front of the classroom. Please make sure you fill this out. In addition to you and your child's name, please list any food allergies or other special attention your child may require.

Nursery staff requests that only one parent drop off or pick up the child. This will help keep the area clear and avoid congestion and/or confusion. If you are not a volunteer in the Early Childhood classroom, please exit quickly once your child has been properly checked in. Too many big feet can leave too little room for the little feet.

Please pick up your children directly after the service. Please make sure that you are wearing your nametag when you pick up your child and that you sign your child out on the sign-in sheet. Children will be released only to a properly identified and preauthorized adult.

Early Childhood Guidelines

Checking In on Your Child During Service

We do ask that you try to not be noticed by the children if you peek in on them during service. If your child notices you it may cause them to become upset when you don't come in to play with them.

Separation Anxiety

It is common for children in this age group to suffer from separation anxiety. Please tell your child "good-bye" when leaving him or her in our care and exit the nursery. It is common for children to cry when you leave. Normally, the children will calm down in just a few minutes. If your child continues to be upset for 10 minutes (or sooner by parent's request) with no sign of calming down, a staff member will come to find you.

Beverages & Snacks

Please bring a drink in a labeled sippy cup and a snack in a labeled zipper lock baggie for your child. The staff will generally not provide a separate snack for your child except on special occasions. You will be notified of these occasions prior to that time.

If your child has food allergies, please note that on the sign in sheet. For the safety of your child,

we also ask that you specifically tell one of the staff *each time your child attends* that your child has food allergies so that all the staff will be aware.

Essentials & Bags

Essentials & bags need to be clearly labeled with the name of the parent or child. All of the items in the bag should also be clearly labeled with the name or initials of your child. If you have any special items that your child may need, please point them out to the staff.

Your bag may need to contain the following items:

- All items required for a change (diaper, creams, ointments, salves, wipes, etc.)
- Extra diaper(s) -- please have your child's name on them
- Bottle or cup as needed
- Pacifier (clip on type is preferred) or other item your child may find comforting.
- Change of clothes.
- *Please do not bring books, candy, gum or other personal items unless it is essential for comforting your child.

Primary Guidelines

Ages

Children in Kindergarten through 4th grade are accepted in our Primary classroom.

Children Attend Sunday Service

Your child will sit with you during the beginning of Sunday Service. The teacher will escort your child back to the Sunday classroom after Words for All Ages.

Pick Up & Sign Out Your Child

Please pick up your child directly after the end of the service. Please make sure that you are wearing your nametag when you pick up your child and that you sign your child out on the sign-out sheet. Children will be released only to a properly identified and preauthorized adult.

The staff requests that only one parent pick up the child. This will help keep the area clear and avoid congestion and/or confusion. If you are not a volunteer in the classroom, please exit quickly once your child has been properly checked out. Too many big feet can leave too little room for the little feet.

Youth Guidelines

Ages

Children in 5th grade and up are accepted in our Youth classroom and in our Youth Group.

Youth Attend Sunday Service

Your child will sit with you during the beginning of Sunday Service. The teacher will escort your child back to the Sunday classroom after Words for All Ages.

9th graders and up may attend the entire service if desired.

Youth Group Drop Off and Pick Up

Drop Off will be available beginning at 3:45 p.m. on the second and fourth Sundays (please consult the SMUUF calendar).

There will be a sign-in sheet at the front of the CCC. Please make sure you fill this out. In addition to you and your child's name, please list any food allergies or other special attention your child may require.

Please pick up your child promptly by 6:00 p.m. Children will be released only to a properly identified and preauthorized adult.

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by CC Liedecke, DRE for San Marcos Unitarian Universalist
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