

## **PRESCHOOLER CHILD SAFETY PRACTICES**

These practices were approved 11/03/10 at a Special Called Business Meeting

### **PRESCHOOLER CHILD SAFETY PRACTICES POPLAR SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH**

#### **NOTE TO PARENTS OF PRESCHOOLERS**

##### **OUR PHILOSOPHY:**

It is our hope that the ministry opportunities we offer to preschool children (birth through 5 years old) will enable them to grow in their faith under the leadership of responsible, loving, and caring adults in a safe and healthy environment.

##### **GENERAL POLICIES:**

- Childcare for all church-wide events will be provided.
- Preschool children may be dropped off as early as 15 minutes before church services/events if the preschool workers are present. Do not leave children unattended.
- Parents/parent designees must remain on church property while children are in the preschool facilities. The only exception is during Vacation Bible School, and children must be picked up promptly at its conclusion each day.
- Parents are asked to pick up their preschool children promptly after each service or event.
- Snacks and beverages will be offered to nursery and preschool children and will be nut-free. Typical snacks include Goldfish, crackers, cereals, butter cookies, vanilla wafers, etc. Typical beverages include water and apple, orange, grape and mixed fruit juices.

##### **MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Sunday Worship Service – every Sunday morning.
- Sunday School (small group Bible Study) – every Sunday morning for preschool children, school-age children and adults of all ages.
- Wednesday Evening Dinners – from September through early June. Note: No child care provided during the dinner hour.
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study for Adults.
- Wednesday Evening Mission Study for preschool and school-age children.
- Wednesday Evening Mission Study for Men and Women of all ages – on one Wednesday per month.
- Summer activities include Vacation Bible School.

##### **HEALTH POLICIES:**

We want all our children to be healthy; therefore, we ask parents to follow these guidelines to assess their child's health before bringing them to church. This is for their comfort as well as for the health of other children. Parents should keep their children home if they observe these symptoms of illness within the last 24 hours:

- Fever (99.1 or higher)
- Excessive coughing

- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Discharge in or around the eyes
- Questionable rash or contagious skin infections
- Green or yellow runny nose

A child that is being treated with an antibiotic should have received treatment for a minimum of 24 hours before coming to church. All nursery teachers and volunteer workers will follow the same guidelines.

### **SECURITY POLICIES:**

- **Nursery Check In/Out Log** – Parents or parent designees must complete the Nursery Check In/Out log (see attached) located on the Nursery’s double door.
- **Pagers** – Pagers will be given to Nursery parents and will be used by the Nursery workers to request that the parents return to the Nursery facility.
- **Security system** – Nursery and preschool children will be released only to parents or parent designees/authorized individual who brought them to the activity.
- **Age requirement** – No one under the age of 18 will be permitted to work in, or enter, classrooms of children age 14 months or younger (exception: children and youth under the age of 18 may accompany or assist their parent workers if another, unrelated worker is present).

### **ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES:**

- **Background check** – Background checks will be required for all paid and volunteer workers.
- **Two-worker rule** – Two previously-approved, unrelated workers shall be required for every activity involving preschool children (whenever feasible).
- **No one-on-one situations** – At no time, whether at church or at a church-sponsored activity (camp or trip) shall any child be alone in a closed, private setting with only one worker. One-on-one situations would be allowed in open areas where both the children and workers can be observed (as through an open door or window).
- **No unsupervised situations** – Preschool children should remain with their parents or a responsible adult while on church premises.
- **Periodic supervision** – Church staff, group directors (as Sunday School Director, WMU Director or Brotherhood Director) and age-group coordinators (as Sunday School Department Director) may make random visits where preschool children’s activities are taking place. Therefore, all activities must take place in rooms that can be viewed from the hallway. In addition, parents may also view these activities if they do so discreetly and so not disrupt teaching that is taking place.
- **Mandatory training** – Training will be provided annually and will include policy education as well as ways to recognize, respond to, and report child abuse suspicions.

**NURSERY FACILITY:**

- The PSBC nursery has been child proofed to ensure safety for all children who attend.
- Age appropriate toys have been bought or donated for all children.
- The bottom of the nursery door will remain closed at all times to ensure children stay in the nursery.
- Toys are cleaned and sanitized regularly.
- Equipment and toys are inspected on a periodic basis or when safety issues arise. Toys that are deemed unsafe will be discarded.

**PERSONAL BELONGINGS POLICY:**

- Parents should label all cups, bottles, diaper bags, and other personal items with the child's name. Name tags may be obtained in the nursery.
- No dangerous toys should be brought to church. Parents must ensure that any items brought on the church premises are appropriate and safe.