



Our Mission Statement

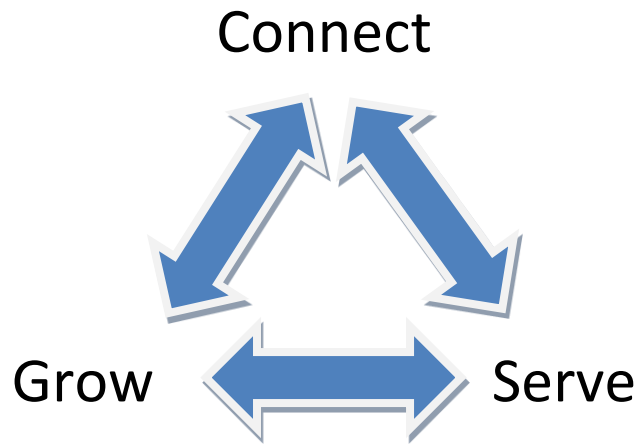
Our mission is to create a safe and nurturing environment where children can experience the faithfulness of our gracious Father, understand the loving sacrifice of our savior, Jesus Christ, and develop a Spirit filled, living relationship with God.

Our Beliefs- We believe...

- That God has appointed parents as the primary spiritual leaders and instructors of their children and the church's role is to assist in the cooperative effort of that task.
- The Godhead is the most important component of children's ministry.
- Successful children's ministry is the shared responsibility of God, parents, children, ministry staff and volunteers, and the church body.
- Children are important in the Kingdom of God and that Christ died to redeem children from their sin.
- Christ has called children to follow Him and children can be equipped to serve Christ and others.
- Children are a gift from God and should be handled with love and care.
- Children deserve a safe, positive, nurturing, and age appropriate learning environment.
- Children's ministry should be creative, innovative, and in touch with the children and families of our community.
- Children's ministry is not just "to" the children but rather "with" the children.

Our Goals

- For each child to know that God is real and that a personal relationship with Him gives meaning to life.
- To aid in each child accepting Jesus Christ and developing a real 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 the Bible is relevant and growth in Bible knowledge results in positive changes in attitudes, actions, and life-styles.
- To provide children with the opportunity and direction to participate in ministry through serving and mission work.
- To support families in their responsibility for the spiritual growth of their child.
- To provide godly men and women who are adequately trained and equipped to serve as role models to children.
- To provide a safe and loving environment for children to participate in and where parents feel comfortable leaving their children.
- To help children feel a sense of belonging to the church.



Important things to remember about children

1. Children require and love attention. Give in to them in various, appropriate ways.
2. Children need to be nurtured.
3. All children are not the same. Like plants, you water them with different amounts according to their type. Provide various teaching elements thru the lesson to include various learning styles. Hands on and engage them as much as possible.
4. Children's Ministry is for the children.
5. Your presentation and interaction should be grounded upon the Word of God for it is the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6).
6. Implement effective discipline. This helps foster an environment in which they can learn and you can teach.
7. Love opens the gateway to the mind, heart, teaching, and understanding of God.
8. Remember that your service is a form of 'worship' unto the Lord Himself. Thus, be dedicated and give the ministry your best!
9. Have fun. Make it fun for the children. Laugh. Let them laugh.
10. Never do ministry to children alone. Partner with God and other leaders. Pray together with other leaders. Share ideas with one another.

Coastal Community Church - Policies and Procedures

NEVER DO MINISTRY TO A CHILD ALONE!!

Ministry workers are expected to adhere to Christ like values and morals at all times with and without children. Our goal for our actions is twofold: exemplify Christ to those we minister with and to protect the integrity of the ministry. We ask for you to implement the following policies while in ministry with children.

Accountability:

1. At least TWO ADULTS are required with every class/group/activity. Never be alone with a child. Keep yourself visible. Youth group workers do not count as adults.
2. Restrooms - Never take a child to the bathroom alone. Always have two adults or several children accompany you. Do not go into the bathroom with a child unless absolutely necessary. Also leave the main door slightly open while assisting the child. Older children may go to the Kids bathrooms alone while being monitored by adults from afar.
3. Counseling - When a child requests private counseling, have another adult present or be in easy view of the rest of the group/workers. Never counsel a child by him/herself alone.
4. Discipline - Never take a child to a secluded place to discipline. Always have another adult present or be in easy view of the rest of the group/workers.
5. Never take a child behind solid doors or obstacles. Doors with no glass should be left open and everyone should always be in view of the rest of the group/workers. **Stay visible!**
6. In the nursery, only female workers should change the diapers. Youth volunteers should not change diapers. No adolescent males will be allowed to serve in the nursery.

Discipline:

1. No corporal or any form of physical punishment is allowed under any circumstances, including grabbing the children. These procedures should be followed for times that require disciplinary action:
 - a. Verbal warning with consequences for their actions.
 - b. Time out or removal from group/activity (clarify the consequences).
 - c. When parents pick up their child, explain what occurred and what you did.
 - d. If continues to act out, take child to ministry leadership and parental notification will occur at this point.
2. Certain actions by the children will result in immediate dismissal from the ministry (fighting, hitting, obscenity...). Notify the ministry leadership if you have any incident that warrants a child's dismissal or parent notification. Ministry leadership will handle all disciplinary situations that require dismissal or parent notification, however you may be asked to be present.
3. Procedure for calling a parent for disciplinary reasons during service give the adult service PowerPoint operator (located in the sound room) the child's last name and security code from his/her name tag. The PowerPoint operator will project the information.

Security:

1. All exterior doors shall remain closed during services.
2. All ministry volunteers should check-in at the check-in desk and wear a name tag.
3. Children may be released only after verifying the number printed on the child's name label matches the number on the label shown by the person picking them up.
4. Only those who are children, volunteers ministering to children or persons picking up children should be in the children's areas during and between services.

Emergency Situations:

1. If minor first aid is needed, there is a First Aid kit located on the outside of cabinets in the main area for children's ministry. The Toddlers room also has a small First Aid kits. Adults are free to administer first aid for such things as small scrapes and bumps as needed. No medicine can be given without the child's parents being present.
2. In the event that emergency services are needed a phone is located on the desk in the office in Children's ministry area. Call 911. After emergency services have been contacted have another adult contact the adult service's PowerPoint operator to call the child's parents.
3. An "OUCH Form" must be filled out for all (minor and major) incidences. OUCH Forms are located beside the First Aid kit. Give one form to the parents and one to the ministry leader.
4. In case of a fire alarm adult workers should gather the children in their immediate class/group and exit the closest exit door. Take the children as far away from the building as possible. One adult should lead the children out while the second adult follows the class/group outside.

Leader Responsibilities:

1. Pick-up curriculum at least one week before scheduled to work (or receive through email). Read over the lesson plan to be familiar with what you are going to teach.
2. Arrive to the ministry area 30 minutes prior to service starting. This will be time to: have volunteer prayer time, prepare your class needs and playtime with the children as they arrive for service. You should be ready prior to service as children begin to arrive.
3. Be committed. Your commitment is not to the ministry leader, the kids or the church. Your commitment is to God. Make every effort to show up according to the schedule.
4. Replacements: If you cannot work on your scheduled Sunday, try to arrange a replacement/switch on VolunteerSpot. Switching your service day/time with another worker usually works best for everybody. If you cannot swap online, try asking someone directly and either way notify Elaina Rogers ASAP by writing to elaina@gocoastal.org
5. Clean-up your class/small group area after service.
6. Be usable and available to serve God. Don't be afraid to serve out of your perceived capacity. Allow yourself to be 'stretched'.
7. Have fun with the children. It's a great way to impact them with the Gospel!