

Guidelines for Preschool Children

Our preschool group consists of children approximately 3-5 years old. This age group enables us to differentiate our program to meet the needs of the children. We acknowledge the enormous range in child development between a 3-year-old (separation anxiety, scribbles rather than colours in), and a 5-year-old (can perhaps write their name). We understand that learning through play is important so we incorporate lots of games and fun activities. We understand that 3 to 5 year olds have lots of energy and short attention spans. We therefore incorporate lots of short activities (3-5 minutes) with variety, movement and child involvement.

When forming classes we take into consideration:

- The child's age
- The child's social and learning needs
- The class size and capacity of the physical space
- The dynamics of the group as a whole (e.g. keeping peer cohorts of children together as they graduate through our programs)
- Our annual planning for kids' ministry as a whole (pre-school through to year 5)

During our pre-school sessions children will be asked to:

- listen quietly to a story/lesson being told for approximately 5 minutes
- play cooperatively with other children
- learn a song together
- work on a craft activity with their leaders
- communicate with their leaders to express their needs and answer basic questions
- understand that their parents are coming back to collect them after the session

Not all of our preschoolers will be able to do these things every week, and they may be working towards these expectations. This is simply a guide to help parents understand what happens in the session.

Guidelines for Infants Children

Our infants group consists of children approximately in K-2 at school. This age group enables us to differentiate our program to meet the needs of the children. We understand that there is a wide variety of abilities in this age group and we will do our best to meet the needs of them all. There is some flexibility here as some children start school at 4 years old. We make sure there is room for all children with all different learning styles, interests and abilities and that these are catered for recognising that some kids are still pre/non-readers.

When forming classes we take into consideration:

- The child's age
- The child's social and learning needs
- The class size and capacity of the physical space
- The dynamics of the group as a whole (e.g. keeping peer cohorts of children together as they graduate through our programs)
- Our annual planning for kids' ministry as a whole (pre-school through to year 5)

During our infants' sessions children will be asked to:

- listen quietly to a story/lesson being told for approximately 10-15 minutes
- follow more complex instructions from their leaders during games or activities
- play cooperatively with other children and in a group
- learn a song and memory verse together
- work on a craft activity with their leaders
- communicate with their leaders to express their needs and more complex questions
- help pack away activities

Not all of our infants will be able to do these things every week, and they may be working towards these expectations. This is simply a guide to help parents understand what happens in the session.

Guidelines for Primary Children

Our primary group generally consists of children in Years 3-5 at school. This age group enables us to differentiate our program to meet the needs of the children. We understand that there is a wide variety of abilities in this age group and we will do our best to meet them all. We make sure there is room for all children with all different learning styles, interests and abilities and that these are catered for. We will seek a safe class environment for all children and ensure that all children are able to participate in activities.

When forming classes we take into consideration:

- The child's age
- The child's social and learning needs
- The class size and capacity of the physical space
- The dynamics of the group as a whole (e.g. keeping peer cohorts of children together as they graduate through our programs)
- Our annual planning for kids' ministry as a whole (pre-school through to year 5)

During our primary sessions children will be asked to:

- listen quietly to a story/lesson being told for approximately 15-20 minutes
- follow instructions from their leaders during games or activities
- play cooperatively with other children and in a group and participate in group activities
- learn a song and memory verse together
- work on a craft activity with their leaders
- communicate with their leaders and other children in a positive way
- help pack away activities

Not all of our children will be able to do these things every week, and they may be working towards these expectations. This is simply a guide to help parents understand what happens in the session.