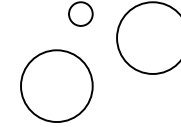




 **Pearl Church**
Parent Handbook

CONTENTS:



Part One →

Welcome
Purpose

Part Two →

Child Registration
Parent Entry Policy
Staff
New Season Sunday

Part Three →

Sickness
Allergy and Medications
Toys
First Aid
Release Form
Incident Report Form
Discipline Policy
Fundamental beliefs about children

**For more information or questions, contact:
Sara Milliken saram@pearlchurch.com**

www.pearlchurch.com
Ecotrust Building 721 NW 9th Ave (2nd Floor) Portland, OR 97209
Sundays: 10:00 and 11:30AM

Part One:

Welcome to Pearl Church Children's Ministry and Nursery!

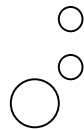
It is a blessing to have your child in our program. We provide a safe and loving environment and in doing this seek to glorify God by modeling Christ's love to children, teaching them the scriptures and helping them grow up in the Lord. For this to happen we spend time each week in worship, God's word, scripture memorization, crafts, and fellowship.

In worship we sing about Jesus and our love for him. Our lesson time is spent studying God's word and scripture memorization while keeping in mind the developmental ages and abilities of our children. Each week your child will create a fun and imaginative craft that relates to the lesson for them to take home as a reminder of our topic. Additionally, we seek to facilitate love and kindness between children so they may experience Jesus through each other.

I encourage you to stay involved with your child each week as they learn new truths and grow up in the Lord! You can do this by assisting with scripture memorization, asking about the lesson each week, allowing your child to serve, be involved in events, and attend regularly.

Thank you for the opportunity to teach, love on, and model life to your child! They truly are a blessing to our church!

Sara Milliken - Children's Pastor



Purpose→



We desire to see each child in this church the ability to truly worship and follow Jesus. What we mean by that goal is:

TO TRULY WORSHIP:

In Spirit. – (John 4)

That they would be engaged with God in their hearts with passion and spirit of God.

In Truth. – (John 4)

That our kids would know truth thoughts of God, become lovers of truth and experience the freedom that comes by truth. That they would also live in truth with life worship.

TO FOLLOW JESUS:

“Salt and Light” – (Matt. 5:13-14; 1Peter 3:15)

That our kids would exhibit transformed lives that transform others.

“Branch to vine” – (John 15:5)

That they would vitally connect to the father in a life-giving, dependent, fruit producing way.

“Good Shepherd” – (John 10:1-18; 21:15-24)

That they would each pour our life into someone else.

“Fishers of People” – (Mark 1:17-20; Luke 5:1-11, Mt. 4:19-20)

That the children would have hearts for the lost and have lives that are in active pursuit of introducing others to the Father.

Part Two:



Registration→

Please go to your child's classroom area. There you will find staff who can assist you in checking in your child. You will be given a registration form to fill out (which will be updated every year or as new information arises). You must fill out the form in order to leave your child with us. After the form is complete your child will be given a 'registered card' with their number on it. You will receive a 'claim card' with the same number as your child. You must have this card at the time of pick-up or your child will not be handed over to you.

Parent Entry→

We ask that you drop off your child at the check in area and do not enter the children ministry/nursery space. Although this may be difficult when a child is upset, we want to create a safe environment for all of our kids. Not only is our space limited, but we want to be sure that only trained staff who have undergone background checks are in the children's area. We are happy to assist nursing mothers, we just ask you provide the necessary information so we can run a background check.

- Make sure and leave your cell phone number on the sign-in sheet in case we are in need of assistance with your child.
- If your child is in need of bathroom help, we will come get you as we do not have enough staff to have at least two adults in the restroom at one time.

Staff→

Our staff is highly qualified to work with your child. Each volunteer has undergone a background check, interview, is deeply dedicated to this church community, understand all policies and procedures, and truly love to spend time with children.

As staff, we desire to live a life that models solid character. We seek to be intentional by building a relationship with your child, modeling life, sharing the love of Jesus with them, and having a lot of fun!

New Season Sunday→

Pearl Church worship is centered on the story of Christ by following the 'Church Calendar'. In effort to model and experience these chapters, our children will participate on the first Sunday of each season for the entire service, except the sermon. We invite you to take this opportunity to explain what is going on during the service, serve your child communion, confess sin together, and worship with one another. These opportunities are intended to be used as a time where your child can watch you interact with God, search your own heart and serve one another as a family with love.

The children's lesson will be a reflection of what they experience during Season Sunday and geared toward their developmental age level. For more information regarding the church calendar, please visit our website and click on: 'about us' and then 'worship'. The Children's Ministry will observe the following Season Sundays: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary time.

Part Three:

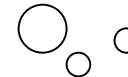
Sickness→

To safeguard other children and staff, please keep your child away from nursery/children areas. A sick child is defined as:

- fever greater than 100 degrees
- runny nose (green mucus)
- persistent cough
- diarrhea
- questionable rash
- communicable diseases (ie: impetigo)
- measles or mumps
- conjunctivitis such as pink eye

Allergy/Medication→

If your child has an allergy and/or taking medication, please make note of this on their registration. A colored dot will be placed on their 'register card' to alert the staff.





Toys→

Each week toys are cleaned and disinfected for the safety of your child.

First Aid→

A first aid kit is available in case of injury.

Release Form→

In the event of an activity you will need to fill out a release form so that your child can participate. You will be informed of an upcoming activity in advance.

Incident Report Form→

The Pearl CM Incident Report Form is to ensure safety and to protect parent, child, and staff. A pearl staff volunteer will fill out a form for any suspected reason. (Such as: if they see unusual bruising, the child was found with lice, he/she was put into a time-out, or if the child was injured while under our care). The staff member will fill the form out, have the parent sign it, and Sara Milliken will mail the original copy later in the week.

Discipline Policy→

Our major concern is to help children learn to love others. We feel that the progressive nature of this policy demonstrates love by providing an example of grace and understanding. We also know there is a need for structure during class so that learning can take place. We hope to be patient and kind during this progression so that love may abound throughout the process.

1. Pre-warning – a child who is behaving appropriately is pointed out to the one who is behaving inappropriately as a positive example.
2. First warning – The child is given a first warning and told that if the behavior continues his/her parents will be notified.
3. Second warning – the child is given a second warning, told that their parent will be notified after class and told that if the behavior continues he/she will be placed into time-out.

4. Third warning – The child is given a third warning which is followed by a time out. The time out lasts no longer than one minute for every year of the child's age. He/she is also told that if the behavior continues he or she will be removed from the area by their parent.
5. Final – The parent is retrieved from the church service and will remove the child from the CM area for its entirety.
6. Resolve – The parent/guardian will meet with CM staff to discuss options prior to the child's re-admittance to the CM.

Fundamental beliefs about children→ (Psalm 78:1-8)

1. We believe children are a gift from God. They are a blessing to a family and church body. (Luke 18:16; Matt 19:14)
2. Most behavioral problems in children stem primarily from a void in their life. Children need to be loved, encouraged, taught and protected. (Duet. 4:9, 11:19-21)
3. Children are capable of doing ministry as well as being ministered to. We look for opportunities for children to serve using their God given gifts and talents. (Luke 9:10-17, Matt. 14:15-21)
4. Children desire examples of how to live. Children naturally desire role models. We attempt to give relationships to children that are positive. (Duet. 19-21)
5. Children can have fun and learn at the same time. Play is a fundamental part of teaching. Play creates experiences that enhance teaching. Motivation for learning is also increased through "fun."
6. Children are teachers as well as learners. In most cases adults leading a class can learn as much from the children as the children learn from them. (Matt. 18:2-6)
7. Spiritual impact on children is not always seen. (Proverbs 22:6)
8. Children learn differently – to provide for greatest learning, teaching techniques within programs and classrooms must be varied. They like to dream, be creative and pretend.
9. Children are capable of high learning levels. (Matt. 18:2-6)
10. Children love challenges.
11. Security is a key environmental need for children. (Psalms 112)

