

Church of the Good Shepherd

Nursery Care Program



Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”
Mark 10:15

OUR MISSION

Children are our special responsibility entrusted to our care by God. It is the mission of our Nursery Staff here at The Church of the Good Shepherd to provide a place where young children are loved, nurtured and cared for. In our nursery, infants and toddlers have their first introduction to their church home. Here, they learn from the loving caregivers what Jesus taught the children: God loves you!

AVAILABILITY

The nursery is available from 8:00 am until 11:00 am each Sunday. For the health and safety of all our children, we would ask that when bringing children to the nursery you follow the guidelines below.

AGES & LOCATION

The Good Shepherd Nursery is on the 3rd floor of the parish hall and provides care for

- Infants (newborn to 12 mo.)
- Toddlers (1-36 mo.)

ADVANCEMENT TO 3 YEAR OLD SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children turning three are promoted into the Sunday School program if their third birthday falls before the 30th of September, and they are already potty trained. We ask that you wait for the next promotions date to advance your child.

STAFF

Our nursery is staffed by paid Nursery Care Providers, and Nursery Volunteers. Please feel free to contact the staff or the clergy with any comments or concerns you might have. Current staff includes: Ashley Perry, and Caitlyn Olsen.

VOLUNTEERS

Because as parents you have so much to offer our nursery, if you use the nursery regularly, your name will be placed on the volunteer list and occasionally you will be asked to volunteer. It is usually once every 2-3 months for about an hour. You will be in a room with a member of the staff and will be asked to help care for the children on that day. This may be coloring, reading stories, holding babies or giving bottles.

DROP OFF & PICK UP

Please sign your child in at the door and record how we can best meet his/her needs (when the last bottle was, when he/she will likely want to rest, if he/she is potty training). Don't slip away from your child, let them know that you will be leaving, but will be back soon. Leave immediately after. If your child continues to be upset, we will come get you. It is not necessary to check on your child during the time that he/she is with us (this will often upset him/her again).

YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS

There are many items brought to the nursery that are alike. We want to make sure that your child's items are used by them and go home with them. ***Please label in a visible place everything your child brings.***

Our nursery is well equipped with blankets, burp cloths and toys. We recommend that while your child is in the nursery, you allow us to use the things that we have. This will reduce our lost and found basket.

YOUR CHILD'S NEEDS

Infants will be given bottles according to their needs, unless you give the staff specific instructions. A special area is provided so that nursing mothers may nurse at any time with privacy. We try many things to comfort your child. If your child has a particular item that helps, please send it with him/her clearly labeled with your child's name.

BAPTISM

Contact the Clergy to receive information about having your child Baptized at CGS.

NURSERY WELLNESS

If your child is sick he/she will be more comfortable at home. Please do not expose other children, Nursery Staff and volunteers unnecessarily to infection. If your child exhibits any of the following symptoms, please do not bring him/her to the nursery:

- **Fever within the last 24 hour period**
- **Diarrhea within the last 24 hour period**
- **Rash not associated with diapering, heat or allergies**
- **Discharge from child's nose not clear in color**
- **Conjunctivitis/ pink eye**

If your child exhibits any of these symptoms while in the nursery, you will be contacted to pick him/her up. Your cooperation in following these guidelines will help to keep that nursery a safe environment for all who use it.

*****Nursery staff cannot give any medications to a child.*****

Bedding is washed after each use and toys are cleaned with disinfectant weekly.

DONATING ITEMS

We will be happy to accept donated equipment and toys. We reserve the right not to use them and will discard these items if they are broken, have missing pieces and/or are unsafe to use in the nursery. Contact the Nursery Staff or Clergy if you have items you would like to donate.

EMERGENCIES

Fire emergency plans are posted in the nursery. Our staff is trained to handle this situation. Please know that your children will be taken care of if this situation should ever arise. Your children will be evacuated to the rear parking lot. *For the safety of the children and yourself, please allow us to evacuate them, you can reunite after the evacuation.*

Please Note:

Church of the Good Shepherd follows the Safe Church Policy and Procedures set forth by the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire.

*Unauthorized recording and the **taking of unauthorized photographs** are prohibited.*