



FAQ's – FP Kids Children's Ministry

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What is your security policy at First Pres?

Our security comes in TWO LAYERS:

1. Each Sunday and Wednesday that your child attends our ministry, you will check in at one of our check-in locations to receive a printed nametag sticker and parent pick up tag. Both stickers will have a matching three-digit number printed on them. You will then proceed to drop your child off in his/ her room. Teachers in each classroom will also fill out an attendance roster each week in order to have an accurate list of the children in the room in case of an emergency that requires an evacuation. (The attendance roster is not in place of the security stickers.) When you return to pick up your child on Sunday mornings, you will give your parent security sticker to the teacher who will confirm that the numbers match and then release your child to you. No one under the age of 14 may pick up one of the children in our classrooms (such as an older sibling). On Wednesday nights, we require one additional layer of security. We ask that you SIGN OUT your child on the sign out sheet. This is due to

the fact that it's nighttime in downtown Bakersfield, and some of our children come with grandparents or neighbors, so we want to offer an additional layer of protection for each child.

2. The second layer of security lies in our policy not to allow anyone into our classrooms who is not a parent of one of the children in attendance, OR one of our fingerprinted volunteers for that classroom. Our doors that lead to exterior spaces have electronic keypads, and our hallways are monitored by key staff and volunteers. Only Children's Ministry Volunteers, FP Staff, Parents/Guardians, and of course the children, may enter the Children's Ministry Center during programming times.

How can I find out about getting my child baptized or dedicated?

Call the church office and ask for Megan, our Pastors' Administrative Assistant. She will make an appointment for you to meet with one of our Pastors to discuss either child dedication or baptism. You may choose to have your child baptized or dedicated as an infant, or any age! Baptisms are part of our Sunday morning worship services via "affusion" (pouring) or "immersion" (dunking).

Do you require parents to volunteer in Children's Ministry at FP?

A strong and healthy Children's Ministry relies on dedicated and spiritually vibrant volunteers! That is definitely the case here at "FP Kids!" While we don't REQUIRE parents to volunteer in our ministry, we sure would welcome the opportunity to talk to you further about it if you'd like. Volunteering at church sets a great example of service for your child and communicates to him/ her that church is a priority in your life. There are many ways to volunteer: teaching, leading a small group, helping at computer check-in, preparing craft materials at home, providing snack, or even helping at one of our annual special events.

Do children attend any type of Camp at FP?

Children entering 4th & 5th grade spend one week each summer at Forest Home Christian Camp in the San Bernardino Mountains (www.foresthome.org). We provide our own counselors, with a ratio of approximately 1:4, and screen all of our counselors carefully. Children enjoy a week of outdoor activities including swimming, field games, eating outdoors, hiking, fishing, rope courses, as well as deep Bible study and spiritual growth. Make sure you are a part of our mailing list to receive important camp news when it becomes available.

Do you have a Vacation Bible School in the summer?

YES! We call it "Summer Bible Blast" and it's an amazing five days of great worship, crazy games, cool crafts, yummy snacks, hanging out with friends, a fun missions offering project, and best of all, the most amazing Bible adventure you've ever seen! Our Summer Bible Blast is usually held in June for ages 4 years – 5th Grade. Check back to our website in the early spring for registration details, as well as volunteer opportunities.

How early can I begin leaving my baby in the nursery?

As early as 6 weeks of age, although if moms would like to come inside the nursery with their babies before that time (or any time after that) to use our nursing area, we would be delighted!

Will my child's photo be taken?

In order to keep current, our Children's Ministry is now using many avenues of social media. This enables us to post pictures of all the great things that happen at FP Kids. We may post group pictures and videos occasionally on our "FP Kids-Children's Ministry at FPB" Facebook group, which is closed to the public. Only parents, grandparents, and our volunteers have access to that private FB group. Click here if you are a parent of a child who attends regularly, and we will approve your access to that FB group within a few days.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/150235305086593>

Do you have accommodations for Special Needs children?

The Oasis Room is now open for the care of special needs children at First Pres. Please contact us directly if you would like to bring your special needs child to our Sunday or Wednesday programs so we can work with you one on one.

How old should my child be before taking communion at church?

When a child understands that Jesus' death on the cross paid the price for his/her sin, and has accepted Jesus as his/her own Savior, then he/she is ready for communion. To help you in the decision, we offer a Parent-Child Communion Class every spring that will help walk you through the steps of this important decision.

How can I pray for my children?

Coming Soon!

Do you have any recommendations for helping my child grow spiritually at home?

Coming Soon!

How can I reinforce what my child is learning at church?

Every Sunday, your family will receive a "Wonder at Home" email recapping that day's lesson and big idea, and will provide you with questions to discuss at home and/or follow up activities to help apply God's Word personally.