

## **Salt Creek Baptist Church Children's Ministry COVID-19 Pandemic 2020 Reopening Plan**

Church staff will work together to closely monitor the mandates and recommendations of the National, State, and Local governments and authorities to ensure we are following recommended timelines and safety guidelines for reopening our children's programs. These recommendations and plans for reopening may be updated at any time based on the mandates of the state, recommendations by health authorities, and volunteer availability.

### **Step 1 (Phase 1 Reopening): Church worship gatherings reopen with strict social distancing and safety guidelines**

**No children's programs offered; children's spaces available for parent use**

As long as strict social distancing guidelines are in place for public gatherings, we will not be able to provide the training, staff, or sanitation measures required to safely offer our Sunday Children's Programs.

However, we will offer the following alternative:

- a) Parents requiring space to care for their children during the service may check-in at a counter in the church foyer or gym and will be directed to one of the children's classrooms or the nursery/mother's room.
- b) Only one family unit at a time will be allowed to use each space.
- c) Following use, the spaces will be sanitized.
- d) Minimal toys will be available, so parents will be asked to provide their own toys and snacks in these spaces.
- e) Parents should check-out upon leaving the space so that it may be sanitized and prepared for the next family.
- f) Kids' Counter will be open, however, any supplies taken to help engage children should be kept and reused on future dates, not returned to the Kids' Counter.

This plan will require two to three volunteers per Sunday to help with check-in and check-out, escorting families to the assigned room, and sanitizing rooms after use.

**Step 2 (Phase 2 Reopening): Public Gathering numbers increase, clear guidelines available for faith communities**

Child Care and Children's Classes will be offered during the Sunday School hour and Worship Gathering. However, this may be dependent upon volunteer and facility availability. This means:

- a) We will offer a staffed nursery and toddler room for the duration of both programs.
- b) Three Sunday School classes will be offered for children in Preschool to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, divided in the following way: Preschool, Kindergarten to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- c) Children in Preschool to 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be dismissed during the service for a large group Children's Church program.
- d) A mid-week children's or family program may be available, but transportation will not be provided.
- e) Volunteers will be asked to be vigilant with cleanliness and sanitation.
- f) Volunteers and all children over 4 years old will be required to wear a face covering.
- g) Seating will be arranged in a way that maximizes distance between children.
- h) No snacks will be offered.
- i) Most large group activities or games that require close contact will be discontinued for the foreseeable future.
- j) Anyone with symptoms of illness (fever over 100.3 degrees, cough, vomiting, etc.) will be asked to refrain from participating in or using the childcare services for 72 hours after symptoms have resolved.
- k) Childcare rooms and classrooms may be moved or changed to accommodate class sizes and social distancing, with a recommended 35 square feet per child.
- l) Attendance will be carefully monitored and logged for contact tracing purposes.

Any regular Children's Church volunteer who feels uncomfortable with serving during this time will be excused from serving until such a time as they again feel safe in doing so. This may result in a volunteer shortage and a combining or postponing of children's classes.

**Step 3 (Phase 3): Church gatherings return to "normal" with continued caution  
All Children's Programs resume**

As we begin to reopen all Children's Programs, some precautions will continue to remain in place, including:

- a) Hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies available in classrooms.
- b) Greater leniency with volunteer staff scheduling.
- c) Written policy regarding attendance when ill or recently ill, which will be made available to volunteers and parents and will be strictly enforced.
- d) Continuation of social distancing when at all possible.