

SEPC Child Protection Policy

Nursery, Sunday School, Youth Groups

Purpose of Policy

Believing that children are our sacred trust from a loving God, we should joyfully answer the call to provide a nurturing Christian environment that will encourage our children's faith. To that end, St. Elmo Presbyterian Church (SEPC) and its members are committed to the safety, welfare, and protection of all children, youth, and volunteers participating in the programs and activities of the church.

- ★ Always make sure there are two adults present at any time. Stay in an open area, or a room with a window, or door-view glass. Doors and windows need to be open or clear at all times.
- ★ Whenever possible, do not be alone in a car with a child.
- ★ Hugs, a pat on the back, diaper changing/helping a small child in the restroom are appropriate in a caring community. Make sure the door is open; never close it if you are helping them. Expressions of affection should not be excessive or imposed on anyone.
- ★ Always make sure your conversations and language are appropriate. Do not use any sexual language, personal intimacies, or rude language.
- ★ Play games and have fun! Make sure they are safe and appropriate for the children involved.
- ★ Absolutely NO corporal punishment is to be used. Not a pop on the bottom or a tap on the hand, or anything else.
- ★ If needed, a first-aid kit is provided in the nursing room above the sink.
- ★ Wash your hands often, to avoid the spread of germs.



Serving Children at SEPC Nursery

Parents

- ✓ It's helpful to stand in the hallway when dropping your child off or picking them up in the nursery. This enables volunteers to check-in children more efficiently.
- ✓ When signing your child in for nursery, please tell a nursery worker any special instructions to write on your child's name tag (potty training, allergies, etc.)
- ✓ Due to allergies we do not have a snack time.
- ✓ If your child has had a fever, thrown up, or had diarrhea in the past 24 hours, please *do not* send them into the nursery. Germs can spread quickly!
- ✓ Please let us know if your child is in diapers or potty-training so we know how best to serve your child.
- ✓ Label everything. 😊

Volunteers

- ✓ **When a child comes to the nursery:**
 - Meet parents at the gate to collect the child and their diaper bag
 - Place their bag in a cubby and write the cubby number on the sign-in sheet along with:
 - their name, parent's name(s), and any other information needed.
 - Please ask parents about any special instructions to label on their child's name tag such as potty training, allergies, etc.
- ✓ Due to allergies, place any external snacks/drinks out of reach until time of pickup.
- ✓ Be aware of diapered children as well as potty-training little ones. *DO NOT* go into the bathroom and shut the door with a child. It needs to be left open at all times if you are assisting them.
- ✓ Enjoy playing with the children and reading to them!