

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Children's Ministry Participation Policy

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” Matthew 7:12

The goal of the Children's Ministry offering at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is to provide a positive, nurturing and inclusive Christian education program. To ensure safety and learning opportunities for our students, we provide the following policy for behavioral guidance.

Children's Ministry Staff & Volunteer Responsibilities

- Ensure that no child is ever left alone.
- Provide positive reinforcement for good behavior.
- Provide classroom activities to promote a sense of belonging and community.
- Approach classroom discipline in a proactive, positive and loving way. Never physically restrain a child (unless the child is posing immediate physical danger to self or another person and is not responding to verbal guidance attempts), never physically punish a child and never use profane or derogatory language.
- Provide appropriate and engaging activities to help students learn about God.
- Document and discuss classroom incidents with parents as needed.
- Model appropriate behavior for children to follow.

Parent Responsibilities

- Please have your child arrive on time to Sunday school; PLEASE NOTE this year, no snacks will be served in Sunday school; eating breakfast at home will help your child be ready to listen and learn.
- Parents and volunteers are always welcome through out the Sunday school year; please let us know if you are available to help out on occasion; you may indicate your availability on your child's registration form. Now and again our dedicated Sunday school volunteers may have a schedule conflict and they appreciate your availability to the children of our congregation.
- Participate with the Sunday School Program Director in resolving recurring behavior problems.
- Inform the pastoral staff or Sunday School Program Director of your child's individual needs or circumstances that might require extra attention from his/her teachers on an ongoing basis.
- **Families with children preschool to grade 2 – SIGN IN/OUT required** please note:
 - Any special needs or medical conditions (including allergies and any conditions for which he/she takes medications).
 - Where to reach you in case you must be contacted.
 - If someone other than you will be picking them up (Note: We recommend that pre-elementary children be picked up by an adult).
- **Families with students grade 3-5 – SIGN IN/OUT not required;**
Students will be dismissed at 10:30 to meet you.

Student Responsibilities

- Arrive at the classroom or activity meeting place ready to listen & learn.
- Help one another follow the rules:
 - ✓ Keep hands and feet to yourself.
 - ✓ Use your indoor voice.
 - ✓ Please walk inside the church building.
 - ✓ Listen to your teachers and follow directions.
 - ✓ Take turns sharing and caring.
 - ✓ Raise your hand to talk during group discussion time.
 - ✓ Be kind to others when you talk.

When a behavior issue occurs

- For mild or moderate disruptions, the teacher will:
 1. Remind the student(s) privately of the appropriate behavior and the reason why it is important.
 2. Redirect the student(s).
 3. Problem solve with the student(s) to bring behavior back in line to allow learning to continue.
 4. Alert the parent to recurring disruptive behavior privately after the service.
- For major disruptions or those presenting a safety concern, the teacher will enlist the help of the Superintendent or Sunday School Program Director:
 1. Immediately remove the student from the group and/or away from danger to self or others (typically to the hallway), discuss the issue and problem solve with the student.
 2. If the situation warrants, contact the parent immediately.
 3. Document the incident and discuss with the parent within the week, asking the parent to attend class with their child the following week.
 4. If necessary, follow up with parents of other students who may have been hurt by the incident.
- For severe or recurring behavior problems, a parent will be required to attend one or more program sessions with their child and/or work with the Sunday School Program Director to develop a plan of action for continuing participation.