



Parent Handbook

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Preschool Ministry at Bear Creek Baptist Church.

This Parent's Guide explains our practices and guidelines within the Preschool Ministry. We hope this guide will help you transition your little one into our care and answer any questions you may have. Please keep this guide as a future reference for any questions or needs.

Our Preschool Ministry is about investing in those most precious to the heart of God. Each child that comes through our doors is a gift that God is honoring us with. We believe all children should know that God made them, God loves them, Jesus wants to be their friend forever, and that Jesus is God. Through Biblically sound curriculum at 9:30 and 11:00 am, children are taught about God and Jesus through fun Bible stories, activities, songs, and crafts. Each hour offers different activities which reinforce the Bible story and learning principles. We are so excited about the little ones that come and spend time with us, and we would love to welcome your child.

We want you as the parent to see how God is moving in our ministry and within your child. If you have any needs, concerns or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to serving you!

Lifting you up,

Lisa Lee

Director of Preschool Ministries
281-859-9900
lisa.lee@bcstaff.org

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14 NIV

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Preschool Ministry

Bear Creek Baptist Church

Mission Statement

Building a Christian foundation in the lives of preschoolers who will learn that God made them, God loves them, and Jesus wants to be their friend forever.

Vision Statement

Our Preschool Ministry exists to help preschoolers discover the love of God by worshipping Him, learning about His Word, giving to others, and sharing His love.



Curriculum



In Preschool Ministries, we are excited to be using the Orange Curriculum called First Look. We have gathered key servant leaders to build a Christian foundation in the lives of preschoolers who will learn that God made them, God loves them, and Jesus wants to be their friend forever.

The curriculum is age appropriate, starting with the most basic truths through lullaby songs for the babies, moving up to more complex lessons and activities to build their faith skills. All of the age levels have the common goal of teaching preschoolers basic truths that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

First Look provides materials that help parents take steps to engage in the spiritual development of their preschoolers. These materials and resources help parents connect First Look's monthly Bottom Line with an everyday faith at home. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of the materials provided to you and to equip you to be spiritual leaders in your homes.

First Look Parent Cue provides multiple communication pieces as tools for partnering with parents. These include:

-**Parent Time**: a monthly piece for parents of children younger than two.

-**Small Talk**: a monthly and/or weekly piece that provides an overview of the month or week, and at-home activity and Parent Cue Cards (memory verse cards).

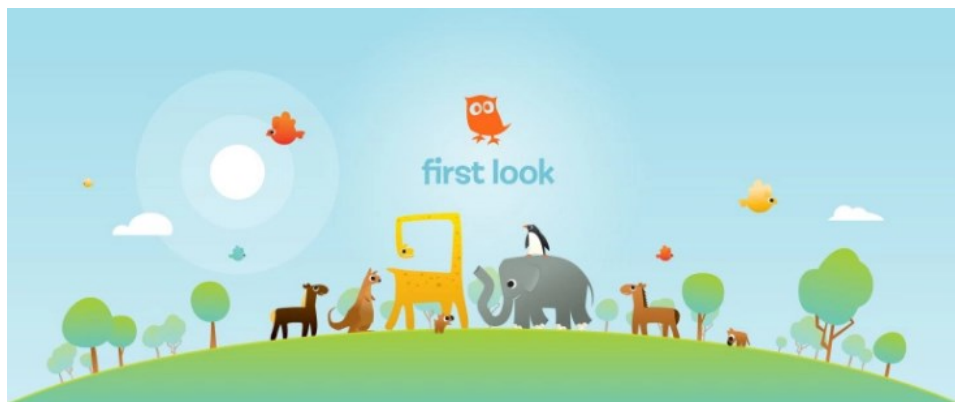
Some parent resources include:

OrangeParents.org (blog)

Parent Cue App



Be on the look out for other resources in the Preschool & Nursery Lobbies!



First Look is a web-based curriculum designed for babies through 5– year-olds. Every element centers on fiving preschoolers a first impression of their loving heavenly Father.

Every **Sunday** we teach our preschoolers one of three simple, but powerful, truths. The entire curriculum is constructed to meet your preschoolers where they are cognitively , spiritually, physically, emotionally, and socially. Through age appropriate activities, preschoolers are building their spiritual foundation so that by the time they graduate to Kindergarten they know these three basic truths.



We start with curriculum for Babies, providing a simple song to sing while changing a diaper. Toddler curriculum provides monthly activities for purposeful play. Extended toddlers adds a Bible story and a craft each week. The real excitement starts when we reach the two–year– old and threes–through–fives and begin our Large Group/ Small Group curriculum.



first look

Each week, you will receive a Parent Cue from us. On it, you will find information to help you reinforce your child's learning at home.

Each Time Cue is designed to fit into the natural rhythm of your day, allowing you to talk about your faith anytime and anywhere.

This week, try to incorporate this activity at least once into part of your daily rhythm, making the most of the time you already spend with your child

Each month we teach preschoolers one of three Basic Truths.

God made me.

God loves me.


Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Your child will hear these all month long! Try practicing them at home.

Practice this at home and see how quickly your child learns the verse.


This space contains a picture of our monthly theme art. The theme changes each month to connect what we're teaching to a preschooler's world.

This summary gives you context for your child's retelling of the story.




MONTH

YEAR



MORNING TIME


This month let your child wake up to, "Good morning! It's a new day to do good things!"



CAR TIME


As you're driving along, talk about all the good things your child can do once you get where you are going.

For instance, at the grocery store, put things in the buggy, and say hello to the people. At preschool he can help clean up and give his teacher a hug. At home, think of good things we can do every day that made us do good things.




BATH TIME

Add several items to the bath time routine. Let your child to pick eight of the items, and then say hello to the people. At preschool he can help clean up and give his teacher a hug. At home, think of good things we can do every day that made us do good things.




CUDDLE TIME

"Dear God, [child's name] She is so full of love. I know You have a plan for her to do. Please guide her to do what You want to protect her heart and love You, God in Jesus' name."



MONTH

YEAR



BASIC TRUTH

GOD MADE ME.

KEY QUESTION

WHO CAN DO WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO DO?

BOTTOM LINE

I CAN DO WHAT GOD WANTS ME TO DO.

MEMORY VERSE

"God made us to do good works." Ephesians 2:10, NCV

SMALL TALK

WEEK 1

DANIEL 1

Young Daniel and his three friends ask to only eat vegetables and drink water when in training with King Nebuchadnezzar because they want to honor God.

WEEK 2

EXODUS 1:22-2:10

Young Miriam watches her baby brother Moses after their mom puts him in a basket and hides him in the reeds on the bank of the Nile River.

WEEK 3

2 CHRONICLES 34

Josiah becomes king at just eight years old and leads the people to do what God wants them to.

WEEK 4


JOHN 6:1-13

Jesus uses a young boy's lunch to perform a miracle and feed over 5000 people.

WEEK 5

1 TIMOTHY 4:12

A review of Kids Rock ending with Timothy encouraging the reader to not let anyone think less of them because they are young.



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Developmental Stages of Preschoolers

It is important to understand the developmental stages of preschoolers in order to best meet their needs. The following information is provided as a resource for you.

Babies and Toddlers – Zero to One

The Phase when nobody sleeps, everybody smells, and one mesmerizing baby convinces you “I NEED YOU NOW”!

Physically

- Lifts their head and chest (3-4 months)
- Reaches for objects and rolls over (4-6 months)
- Sits up and grabs with two fingers (6-8 months)
- Crawls (6-10 months)
- Stands unsupported/maybe even walks (11-12 months)

Verbally

- Has distinctive cries and makes vowel sounds (0-6 months)
- Turns toward your voice and makes consonant sounds (3 months)
- Mimics your tone and “babbling” (6 months)
- Understands simple words (9 months)
- Understands around 70 words and says “first words” (12 months)

Mentally

- Experiences the world through five senses
- Mildly aware of everything and learning fast
- Learns best from things that respond to them (people over screens)
- Enjoys music, dramatic expressions, silly voices, and things that make you look ridiculous.

Emotionally

- Gives the first social smile (6 weeks)
- Mirrors expressions (2 months)
- Distinguishes happy faces from sad faces (4 months)
- Turns away from strangers to show fear (6 months)
- Shows surprise at loud noises (7 months)

Ones & Twos

The Phase when nobody's on time, everything is a mess, and one eager toddler will insist, "I CAN DO IT"!

Physically

- Sits, crawls, and walks (12-15 months)
- Walks backwards and sideways (15-18 months)
- Scribbles with crayons (15-18 months)
- Walks up and down stairs, jumps in place (18-24 months)
- Throws a ball overhead, briefly stands on one foot, and may demonstrate hand preferences (24-36 months)

Verbally

- Points to objects when you name them (18 months)
- Says 10-20 words, mostly nouns and pronouns (18 months)
- Says 40-50 words and forms two word sentences (24 months)
- Says 300-400 words that may be difficult to understand (36 months)
- Still understands more than they can communicate

Mentally

- Follows simple instructions
- Benefits from repetition
- Unable to take the point of view of other people
- Doesn't comprehend time; often confuses past, present, and future
- Learning is enhanced through music, movement, and art

Emotionally

- Enjoys role-play activities
- Has trouble sharing and displays separation anxiety
- May begin to bite, scream, and throw tantrums
- Plays next to, rather than with, playmates
- Recognizes basic emotions in others

Your role is to embrace their physical needs

- Thinks like an artist – You help them learn when you...engage their senses.
- Wants to know, "AM I ABLE?" – You capture their heart when you...Develop their confidence.
- Is motivated by safety – You coach their motor abilities when you...establish a routine.

Threes & Fours

The phase when anything can be imagined, everything can be a game, and one curious preschooler wants to know “WHY?”

Physically

- Balances on one foot for 5-10 seconds
- Strings beads
- Cuts with scissors
- Rides a tricycle
- Walks upstairs with alternating feet
- Buttons and unbuttons clothes

Verbally

- Increasingly easier to understand
- May struggle with some sounds: r, l, s, z, j, sh, ch, th
- Says over 1,000 words (but who’s really counting anymore)
- Answers “what”, “where”, and “when” questions

Mentally

- Beginning to distinguish “real” from “not real”
- May struggle to understand “truth” vs. “lie”.
- Still unable to take the point of view of others
- Lives in the present; limited memory of past events
- Learns by putting things into simple categories
- Beginnings to identify cause and effect

Emotionally

- May bite, scream, and throw tantrums (3 years)
- Enjoys both physical humor and simple jokes
- Can express basic emotions when asked
- Can tell you what makes them happy or sad
- May have nightmares or specific fears (fire, dark, monsters)
- Responds to story-telling as a way to talk about feelings

Your role is to embrace their physical needs

- Thinks like an artist – You can help them learn when you...engage their senses.
- Wants to know, “AM I OKAY?”...You capture their hearts when you...cultivate their self-control.
- Is motivated by safety – You coach their moral abilities when you...discipline consistently.



THE
rhythm
OF YOUR
WEEK
—
WILL SHAPE
THE VALUES
IN YOUR
home.



Safety Policies

1. Anyone who works with your child has been a member of Bear Creek for at least 3 months, has been attending for a minimum of 6 months and has had a legal background check completed and approved.
2. There are always two workers who are not related to each other present at all times in every room.
3. In the preschool area, diapers are changed only in designated areas and in the presence of other caregivers. Male workers do not change diapers or take children to the bathroom.
4. A female adult worker accompanies all children, two years old through grade three, to the bathroom. We always make sure the restroom is clear before allowing a child to enter.
5. If a child needs assistance while in the restroom, the female adult worker leaves the door open.
6. **At no time** should a preschooler (Birth-Pre K 5) be left at the church without a responsible parent or guardian. We must have someone responsible for the child on campus at all times.
7. You will print a set of stickers with corresponding numbers. Your child's first and last name will be printed on all security tags. You place one on the child and keep the corresponding tag. In order to pick up your child, you must return the sticker with the corresponding number. If the sticker is misplaced, your pin number. You will be sent to the Preschool Welcome Desk to verify your identity with a four digit security code. This security system is used every time a child is in the care of our Preschool/Children's Ministry.
8. **If we should need you while you are in service, that security number will be posted on the large screens in the worship center. Please come to the preschool desk if you see your child's security number on the screen.**
9. To ensure security, only children and adult workers should be inside the classroom. Please knock on the door and wait for the teacher to check the nametag number and release your child.

The only exception to this are parents who have checked in at the visitor desk and have a yellow badge. If you have received your yellow badge, you are ONLY allowed to engage your child.

10. All workers wear nametags while working in the Preschool Ministry areas. If you as a parent notice anyone without a tag, please let us know as soon as possible. If for any reason the preschool area must be evacuated, children cannot be released during the process of evacuation. You may walk with your child's class; however, your child will not be released until arriving at the designated location and given instructions from the Preschool Director/Pastor. This is to ensure every child is accounted for and safe.
11. For safety purposes, we do not permit people to wander around the preschool hallways. If you need help, please ask anyone at the Preschool Welcome Desk to assist you.

Medical Procedures

A child who appears ill or has been ill in the preceding 24 hours cannot be accepted into a classroom. If your child displays any of the following symptoms, please do not bring them to the preschool area.

- Fever within the previous 24 hours
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea
- Any symptoms of the usual childhood diseases:
 - Scarlet Fever
 - German Measles
 - Mumps
 - Chicken Pox
 - Whooping Cough
- Common cold and flu (from onset through one week)
- Sore throat
- Croup
- Any unexplained rash
- Thrush
- Any skin infection: boils, ringworm, impetigo
- Pink eye and other eye infections
- Head lice

If your child becomes ill during a church activity, you will be contacted to pick the child up immediately.

Mother's Day Out



About Us:

Bear Creek Baptist Church Mother's Day Out has been in existence since 1980. God has truly blessed us with a dedicated staff and excellent facilities to offer our children. Two teachers in each classroom help provide a low student/teacher ratio. Classes are available for children 6 months as of the 1st of September of every year, to those not yet in Kindergarten.

Contact Karen.Crook@bcstaff.org for more information.

Ministry Goals:

- To enable children to feel good about themselves in their environment.
- To aid children in learning to understand and live intelligently in God's world.
- To teach children to manage themselves, their materials and the daily routine
- To provide a safe environment for children.
- To help children find comfortable, contributing places in the group.
- To encourage children to take initiative in planning and doing things.
- To facilitate steady growth through adequate space, freedom of movement and needed equipment.
- To allow children to achieve all the preceding and hear about God's love in an environment of Christian love and concern.



Awana

Wednesday Nights during the school year

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Awana is a national, nondenominational ministry for children ages 3 (by September 1st of the current school year) through Grade 5 with the purpose of reaching children with the gospel message of Jesus Christ. Fun Bible studies, worship, scripture memory, games, puppets, crafts, awards, and other activities transform our Awana program into a lively weekly experience where fun and learning go hand in hand.

For more information, contact the
children's ministry staff at **childrens@bcstaff.org**



Come join our tribe where ALL moms are welcome!

Moms@BCBC is a place to find friendship, community, resources & support for you as a woman & mother. We welcome all mothers of all ages & stages: mommies of babies to kindergartners & beyond, home-school moms & mothers who just want to encourage other moms! No mom should mother alone, you need all the support you can get!

Moms@BCBC meet twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Fridays. Child care is available for both sessions. There are two meetings:

Morning Group: 9:30AM– 11:30AM

Evening Group: 6:00pm-8:00pm

Moms@BCBC will follow the curriculum of MOPS and MOMSNEXT. The fee to join covers membership and childcare. For more information, visit our facebook page (@moms.bcbc) or email us at moms.bcbc@bcstaff.org.

Interested in Serving in Preschool Ministry?



You can participate in our Preschool Ministry by serving in a variety of areas. We need Classroom Leaders and Classroom Leader Assistants for the preschoolers, Security for the hallways, Greeters and Administrative Assistants for our guests. All members serving with children at Bear Creek are screened with a comprehensive background check.

Contact Lisa Lee for details at Lisa.Lee@bcstaff.org

Discovery Land Site Map



*Find us and follow us
on Social Media:*

@BCBCPreschoolMinistry



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