## Children’s Church Guide

You have just volunteered to help in Children’s Church at Sharon Baptist Church. This ministry will IMPACT boys, girls, and their families for years to come. Here are some practical guidelines to assist you in doing the best job you can for the glory of God.  Every adult person serving in a position of authority or a sponsor in Children's Church, Nursery, AWANA, Student Sunday School or any other children's activity must have a background check on file in the church office.

General Guidelines

**1. Cleanliness is next to godliness.** Brush your teeth, comb your hair, use deodorant, wear clean clothes. You are representing Jesus. Look and smell your best for Him. The children and other leaders will appreciate this.

**2. Prayer changes things.** Pray for God's anointing on our service, on the other workers, on your portion of the program and on the other services at church. Pray for the kids. Our desire is that God would do something new in each child each week.

**3. Preparation pays big time.** Even the person with the smallest part must prepare. Remember [Colossians 3:23-24](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Col%203.23-24). "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

**4. Discipleship is important.** You cannot minister and help others grow spiritually unless you yourself are constantly growing spiritually. Part of that spiritual growth requires Involvement In discipleship on a regular basis. You need to be regularly involved in a regular Christian Education class where you can continue to grow in your knowledge of Christian.

**5. Always treat children with respect.** Jesus said, "...I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."-- [Mat 25:40](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Matt%2025.40) Your speech should always lift children to Jesus. Be an encourager. Learn and use names with respect.

**6. Children want to serve.** Whenever possible, involve children in your portion of the service. Have them hold objects, dramatize stories, or run the overhead projector. This, after all, is "children's" church. (Pay attention to children that are used in ministry by the other workers. We want to involve as many different boys and girls as possible in each service each week.)

**7. Sit with the children.** Workers are to be part of the service. Never stand in the back of the room or congregate in small groups away from the kids.

**8. Your life is an example.** Workers must be involved in the entire service. Your worship, participation, and following of the rules, set an example to the children.

**9. Compliment children for positive behavior.** ([Proverbs 16:21](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Prov%2016.21)) Some call this positive reinforcement. Children are motivated by adults/teens who notice their good deeds and recognize them.

**10. The Rule Of Three will be enforced.** No worker will have one-on-one contact with a child apart from the group. You do not take a child alone into the hallway or rest rooms. You do not spend time privately with any child either on or off the church grounds. Always walk in three's or more. Spending time with several children is permitted. The Rule Of Three states, "there will never be less than three people in any given situation. This can be two workers and one child, or one worker and two children."

Three simple rules work well for children of all ages:

1. When you want to talk, raise your hand and wait to be called on.

2. When someone else is talking, be quiet.

3. Keep your hands and feet to yourself unless you have permission.

You may need to repeat these three guidelines every week

The number one rule in ministry with children is that **Each of us is a Child of God** and should be treated with the kind of respect, love, and support that is expected by the commandment in Scripture to love one another.

Clear rules and expectations and consistent messages about behavior are the key to effective discipline procedures. Occasionally, children have trouble following the rules or display disruptive behavior. In these cases, the following steps will be taken.

Crowd Control

1. You may sit with the children, but be ready to move at any time.

2. Pay attention to the children around you. The happenings on the platform are supposed to be interesting, but do not require your undivided attention.

3. You are here to help every child have a positive experience in church. A disruptive child can ruin church for those around him.

4. Every child has occasional lapses in self-control. Treat the disruptive child with respect.

Discipline

5. When a child misbehaves follow these guidelines.

a. Never physically hurt a child. No corporal punishment will be tolerated.

b. Handle all difficulties quietly and efficiently.

c. Treat child as an individual created in the image of God.

d. A gentle touch on the shoulder may be all that is needed to halt a disruption.

e. Eye contact with the child may be enough to bring peace.

f. You may need to move the child or make room to sit by him.

g. If a child needs to be disciplined, take him to the back of the room and remember:

Discipline includes...Instruction...Correction...Encouragement

Always pray with the child and return him to a different location in the room.

Hands Off!

Do not EVER grab, swat, spank, or physically handle a child in your ministry. **EVER.** We have found it wise not to even discipline *our own children* that are in our children's church when they misbehave. Other children may not know that the child is your own and be emotionally frightened by the physical discipline.