

Childcare Options & Babysitter Guidelines

Should you offer childcare is a question faced by all Small Groups and as we continue to reach out to younger families in our church, the need for childcare grows greater. A majority of those in our fellowship who are not connected in a Small Group state “Childcare as the biggest challenge” to joining a group. Should your group offer a childcare solution? **THE ANSWER IS YES!** If you really want to be open to anyone joining your group, remove the barrier.

HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS:

1. If someone indicates they need childcare when they join your group, ask them to get a babysitter for the first meeting and then let them know that everyone will discuss childcare needs and the solution at the first group meeting.
2. Keep your Small Group small! The larger your group becomes the more difficult it is to manage childcare needs of your members. As the leader you decide the size of your group; however, we do recommend keeping your group to 8-10 adults or 4 couples including the leaders, and depending on the number of children needing childcare.
3. Together with your group members at your first meeting, come up with a plan; here are some options:
 - A. Create a child-friendly Small Group, like a family gathering, where parents are encouraged to bring their children
 - If baby or toddler – younger ones could stay with parents
 - If children – provide a play/video room with a sitter or an adult who could teach a Bible story
 - Have teenage siblings “babysit”
 - B. Do we want to use a room in our home and hire a babysitter?
 - C. Could we put a basket out and ask for a donation to cover the cost each week?
 - D. Some homes cannot accommodate on-site childcare; so could someone offer the option for babysitting to take place in their home (in close proximity-5 minutes)?
 - E. Or, could someone with a home that can accommodate childcare “host” the group in their home while you lead?
 - F. If there is only one family with a need, let them hire a babysitter and have the group members support them by helping cover the cost as they are able.
 - G. Set up a rotation where a different couple in the group babysits the children each week, ensure no one has to babysit more than once or twice during the semester (least desirable option).

Many Small Groups do A or B and C; pick a child-friendly room where babysitting or childcare can take place, then hire a babysitter and put a basket out with a sign that says - donations for childcare. Each week, more than enough will come in to cover the cost; this is doing life together.

→ **NOTE:** Let us know you are willing to work out childcare with your group members (we will mark your group “children are welcome”); this can change as needed (when you meet child capacity), and yes, you can continue to add adults but no more children

Off-CAMPUS SMALL GROUP BABYSITTER GUIDELINES

Here are some guidelines for using babysitters during off-campus Small Group meetings:

- 1) The church may be able to provide the names of babysitters who may be available to work during your off-campus Small Group. Please contact **Jackie Shaw** at jshaw@fishhawkfc.org for this information.
- 2) The Small Group Leader and the babysitter will negotiate the rate of pay, and the Small Group Leader will pay each babysitter directly
- 3) The recommended guidelines for percentages of babysitters to children are 1 babysitter to 5 children. For example, if 10 children require supervision, then 2 babysitters are recommended.
- 4) In the event that an accident occurs during the off campus Small Group, the Small Group Leader is required to notify Pastor Bob Magruder as soon as possible, as well as their homeowner's insurance if a claim is warranted.
- 5) In the event of an accident during a home Small Group, the homeowner's insurance would be considered primary insurance and should be contacted. The church's liability insurance would be secondary, and will be utilized only after the homeowner's insurance claim process has been completed.

ON-CAMPUS CHILDCARE

NOTE: On campus childcare is available for the following FFC On-Campus groups only: Tuesday morning Women's Ministry LIFEgroups, MOPS, Thursday night Women's Ministry LIFEgroups, and Thursday night LifeCARE Groups. If your group is one of these types of groups, please know that space is very limited and all on campus groups need pre-approval (certain study requirements may be in place for these groups and size of group may be limited for these on-campus groups).

Childcare provide for on-campus groups have the following requirements:

- Parents must RSVP WEEKLY by deadline for their children to attend childcare
- Tuesday morning childcare is for Babies-PreK and Thursday night childcare is for Babies-Grade 5 (10-11 year olds)
- On-Campus Childcare registration links are posted and made active the week before the scheduled groups on the [Women's Ministry webpage](#)
- Children with cold, flu or other symptoms or illness should stay home and will not be admitted to childcare. Temperature checks may be performed by childcare workers.
- Childcare check-in is located on the second floor of Bldg B; check-in begins 15 minutes prior to group time, workers are not available for early drop off-please plan accordingly.
- Pick-up must be **completed** no later than 15 minutes after your group's scheduled end time; please excuse yourself if your group runs long and pick-up on time
- Please follow other guidelines set by our Childcare / Preschool Ministries. For questions or more info, please contact our Childcare Coordinator, Jackie Shaw at jshaw@fishhawkfc.org