



Child Protection Policy

Purpose

We will uphold the integrity of security and safety within Souls Kids Ministry to the highest level, by creating an environment where adults feel confident in dropping off and picking up their kids and where kids feel safe to be in the space.

To best safeguard our Souls Kids Ministry environments, we practice the following Child Protection Policies:

Rule of Two

At no time should a volunteer ever be alone with a kid in a Souls Kids Ministry environment to protect all kids from physical and sexual harm and to protect volunteers from false accusation. Every Souls Kids Ministry room should have at least two people who are screened, approved and certified to be serving in the space.

Souls Kids Area

The only people allowed in the Souls Kids Zone during service are approved Souls Kids workers, or parents/siblings with their own child and a matching kids tag.

Bathrooms and Diapering

- During services, if an adult bathroom is to be used by an adult located in Kids Ministry, the person is to be escorted by a Guardians team member.
- Before a kid uses a bathroom in Souls Kids Ministry or anywhere in the facility, a volunteer should check and make sure the bathroom is empty.
- If a kid requires assistance in the bathroom, doors must remain open and the volunteer must be visible to others.
- Volunteers who are assisting kids in the bathroom or changing a diaper must be an adult (18+).

Physical Contact

- Adults should not initiate physical contact beyond a side hug, the holding of hands, fist pumps or the touch of a head. Inappropriate behavior includes, but is not limited to the following: massages, kissing, frontal hugging, sitting on legs or laps and contact with private areas of the body.
- When caring for a kid within the nursery, often physical contact is required when reading books, playing with toys, and consoling a tired or upset baby or toddler.
- If a volunteer happens to witness inappropriate touching or questionable behavior by other staff or volunteers, volunteers must promptly intervene as appropriate and must report such instances to the Souls Kids Team, Souls Kids Leader, or Guardians Lead.

Release of Children During a Service

- Only parents or a sibling with the matching kid's check-in tag are allowed to check their kids out of the nursery or Souls Kids area following service.

Release of Information

- Under no circumstance are we allowed to release attendance history of any child to anyone.
- Any Report (Behavior, Accident/Injury, Maltreatment Form, etc.) that is filled out, should never be given out. If a copy is requested, redirect the request to the Guardians Team, who will connect with the Director of Guardians (security).

"Taking people from where they are, to where God wants them to be!"