

# NURSERY

## COMMUNITY KIDS

Jesus said, "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

### Information for Parents

*Community Reformed Church Nursery celebrates the opportunity to share God's love with the young people of our congregation. We are committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and loving environment to children and their families.*

Community Reformed Church Nursery is a safe and fun place for children ages birth to five to learn and grow together. The Nursery has two spaces. One side is for infants and toddlers through age two. The other side is for preschool age children from ages three to five. You'll check your children in on the side appropriate for their age group.

**Nursery Hours:** Nursery is provided for children during the 9:00am service, Sunday School and 10:45am service. Nursery is also provided on Wednesday evenings during Midweek classes beginning at 6:30pm. Children are welcome to arrive to the Nursery up to 10 minutes before the scheduled service.

**Check In:** All Families will be asked to sign in using our computer system. It is called CCB (Church Community Builder) and helps us track attendance and information about your children. It will highlight information about allergies, any special accommodations, as well as who would be authorized to pick up a child from nursery. Important information will be shared with the nursery staff or volunteers on a need-to-know basis.

Parents will provide a cell phone number at check in. This will be used to communicate a child's needs in the nursery. Please have your phone on vibrate so you can be contacted if necessary. If a child has a hard time separating when the parent leaves and doesn't calm after a few minutes of playing, we will text you to come back to the nursery to help calm the child. We want the nursery to feel like a safe and fun place for children.

Families will be asked to sign in at the entrance of the Nursery using the computer. A name tag label will print and can be placed on your child's shirt. Some parents prefer to place the name tag between the shoulders on the back of the child's shirt, so it stays in place.

All the items belonging to the child (sippy cup / comfort item) should be labeled with a name and placed in the child's bag or a shelf out of the reach of others.

**Nursery Coordinator(s) & Volunteers:** One or more on-staff Nursery Coordinators or the Nursery Director will be available when the nursery is open for regular services and activities. Additional Nursery Volunteers may consist of parents, youth (at least 12 years of age) and other members of our church family who assist during services and activities at church. At least two staff or volunteers will be in the nursery for the safety of children and adults. The Coordinator(s) and Director will be trained in CPR/First Aid, and are trained in the reporting & prevention of child abuse & neglect. Staff are expected to report suspected child abuse & neglect. **If you are interested in volunteering, please connect with the Nursery Director to be added to our team.**

**Nursery Activities:** Our nursery activities and supplies are planned to be developmentally appropriate and engaging. Children will be encouraged to enjoy toys, music, books, and sometimes art projects. Time in the nursery might include talking, playing, and interacting with other children and adults. Sometimes art projects or music are enjoyed as well. Nursery staff and volunteers may share Bible stories or songs. Please leave personal toys at home unless a comfort item is needed.

**Cleanliness:** The Nursery staff will work to keep areas safe and sanitary, picking up as needed to keep children interested in the toys and materials. At the end of each play time, supplies are put away in labeled containers. Children are invited to help with toy pick up time. Toys that are mouthed by children will be placed in a bucket for later cleaning. Cleaning procedures and schedules are in place to ensure that cleanliness is a priority. Bleach/water solution or Clorox wipes will be used by staff to sanitize toys when children are not using them.

**Child Guidance:** Children are learning to make good choices, how to be safe, and how to be kind to one another. The nursery staff and volunteers will provide encouragement and guidance as the children learn and grow together. This may include giving children positive instructions such as, “please use walking feet. You could fall and get hurt if you run.” It may include asking a child to discontinue a behavior such as, “please stop throwing that block. You could hurt someone. Instead, show me how you can build a tower.” Volunteers and staff may also redirect the child to another activity or play area, offer positive and acceptable choices, set limits, or ask the parent to return to the nursery for help in guiding behavior. Nursery staff and volunteers will provide a positive example of kindness and support safe play. The team will notice and encourage positive choices.

**Diapering / Toileting:** Parents are asked to bring the supplies needed to diaper their child. Children are allowed to use the bathrooms in the nursery. Children who ask for help in the restroom will be assisted by staff when possible. Parents are welcome to use the diaper changing stations, located in the Nursery, Family Restroom, and the Main Men's and Women's Restrooms for your convenience. There is also a changing table in the Nursing Mom's Room, which is located just inside the Nursery's main entrance.

**Health & Illness:** Frequent hand washing is recommended. Children should not visit the nursery when they are ill. We follow the state of South Dakota recommendations for temporary exclusion from a childcare setting as a guide for when a child should attend. They can be viewed at:

<https://doh.sd.gov/diseases/assets/ChildCareExclusion.pdf> If a child develops symptoms of illness while in the nursery, they will be separated from the other children and the parents will be contacted to take the child home. If your child developed an infectious disease after being in the nursery, please contact the church office or Nursery Director so anonymous information about potential exposure can be posted in the nursery for other families. No medications will be administered in the Nursery.

**Food Policies:** Due to the number of allergies present to children, snacks are not given. Parents are discouraged from bringing in food. If children bring their own drink into the nursery, the cup / bottle needs to be clearly marked with the child's name. Infant formula should be mixed in advance with instructions told to staff and clearly printed with the bottle. Breastmilk provided should be ready to use as a bottle warmer is unavailable. **A nursing mom's room is available and is located just inside the nursery, nearest the sanctuary.**

**Emergency Procedures:** If a situation causes the need for evacuation of the building, nursery staff and volunteers bring children out to a safe area. If you arrive to assist in the evacuation, please stay with the group until they leave the building and check the group to ensure all children are accounted for. In case of fire, the meeting space is the cross in the front lawn. In case of weather emergency, the meeting space is the large bank of restrooms.