

King's Cross Kids'
Parent Handbook

King's Cross Kids' Ministry Philosophy

We want to show Jesus to kids and families so they grow to be like him and go to tell others about him.

We believe that this will be accomplished by:

- Teaching children the gospel of Jesus Christ, and...
- Using methods of instruction and interaction that are both excellent and age-appropriate.

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We believe that only the gospel can change children, families, neighborhoods, and schools. As we minister the gospel to children, we are participating in King's Cross's larger vision of reaching people with the gospel, building up the church, and releasing the church into the world.

How will you assist me as a parent?

Our desire is to partner with parents who want to raise children who will grow up to love and trust Jesus. Parents deliberately search for the church that provides the most opportunities for their kids. We want King's Cross to be that church! Yet, as we continue to build our children's ministry, we must not neglect our homes—where children see our faith on real-time display every day.

According to the Bible, parents have the primary responsibility for teaching our children about God. God's word must be prominent in our conversation and daily life with our kids. Training our children in godliness is not something that we can put off until they're older. In Deuteronomy 6:4-9, we read:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

The call to training our children is comprehensive. According to Deuteronomy 6, we have responsibility to teach our children during mealtime, drive time, bedtime, and in the morning.

And we have a responsibility as a church to walk alongside you as you train your children. We want to equip you to pray and plan for your kids' spiritual growth. We hope that our regular ministry to children serves to reinforce what you are teaching at home.

Why is the gospel so important? Can't this wait until my child is older?

We believe that the stories of the Bible are not fables or adventure stories about people who lived long ago. The Bible reveals God's plan to save people from sin and the world from injustice through Jesus. The Bible is a book about Jesus. The curriculum that we use at King's Cross Kids is designed to make the God's character and Jesus' work central in every story and lesson. We believe that children, just like adults, need Jesus' saving love. When we teach children about God's plan to save humanity, we teach them their personal need for the Savior. We do not flatter or deceive children by teaching them that their nature is good and only needs to be developed. Rather, we tenderly teach a child about his or her own failures—pointing out the specific sins to which children are prone (lying, disobedience to parents, etc.). Our goal is to be tender but true. We pray that the Holy Spirit will use the truth to bring conviction to the child's heart and conscience, and ultimately to give the gift of faith.

What do we mean by “methods of instruction and interaction that are both effective and age-appropriate”?

A child's basic attitude toward God, his Word, and his church is formed from the attitudes and actions of the adults in their lives during their earliest years.

Psalm 78:5-7 states:

He established a testimony for Jacob and established the law in Israel that he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.

The educational philosophy for King's Cross Kids is modeled after the progression found in these verses. It can be described as helping children move from knowing the gospel story to participating in it. This progression is modeled after the movement found in Psalm 78:5-7. From their earliest years, our nursery age children are taught basic Bible doctrines and stories as they are spoken in blessings and prayers.

1. Our Nursery is more than a babysitting service. It is the launching pad for nurturing the faith of the next generation. In the nursery, we seek to welcome children with nurture and prayer. King's Cross Kids are also taught to see and memorize basic Bible truths. The curriculum King's Cross Kids employs is designed to teach the Bible's storyline over a three year period.

The Classroom Lesson is a structured lesson with a specific topic highlighted from the scripture text and with specific goals. Questions are drawn from the stories as told from the Bible. The teacher reads the story from the curriculum and then asks the children questions about the story. A craft time follows the Bible story. While the children are crafting or eating their snack, the teacher engages the children with more questions about the story.

General Safety and Security Policies

All King's Cross Kids teachers must be King's Cross members. Classroom helpers may be members-in-process. All servants must have signed the King's Cross Kids' Policy and Procedure. Anyone convicted of child abuse or a related offense may not serve with King's Cross Kids.

All servants receive training which covers our philosophy of ministry, policies and procedures, curriculum, and guidelines for effective and age-appropriate teaching. All classrooms are staffed by a team of two or more servants. Under no circumstances is a child to be left in a classroom or anywhere unattended. A parent must stay with a child until a teacher arrives.

King's Cross Kids has an open policy so that all parents/guardians have access to their children at all times. If you need to check on your child, please ask the attendant at the check-in desk to assist you. Going into the classroom may upset your child (he or she may think that it is time to go), and it may upset the other children. Please feel free to check on your children through the windows and classroom doors. If you want to sit in the classroom to observe, please check-in with the teacher and service coordinator.

Policies and Procedures

What do you expect of me as a parent? What should I bring?

Parents are requested to use only disposable diapers while at church gatherings. Please bring an adequate supply of disposable diapers and wipes as well as an extra change of clothes for all infants and toddlers.

Please make sure to bring a spill-proof, non-glass cup or water bottle. If the container is transparent we ask that it be water so as not to upset any other kids since we will only be distributing water at snack time.

Parents should label all items (such as bottles, cups, diaper bags, wipe containers, clothing, pacifiers, etc.) with their child's first and last name.

Please leave all toys, blankets, dolls, etc. in the car or at home so as not to lose them or cause other children to become upset.

Parents should notify coordinators and teachers of any allergy or special circumstances their child may have.

Parents are encouraged to keep immunizations up-to-date.

Secure Check-In/Check Out Procedure

Classrooms will open 15 minutes prior to regularly scheduled church activities and will close five minutes after the completion of our worship services.

Parents must remain on the church premises while their child is checked into children's ministry.

Please make sure your child has a clean diaper and any potty trained children are taken to the restroom before checking him or her in.

Please pick up your child promptly after the worship service. Only parents, legal guardians, or individuals they designate may retrieve a child from the children's ministry area. Parents must present the appropriate claim tag before their child will be released.

Sickness Policy

If your child is sick, please respect others by keeping him or her with you. If your child shows signs of sickness (including, but not limited to, high fever, vomiting, diarrhea, severe coughing, colored nasal drainage, pink eye, head lice, undiagnosed rash, open skin lesions, and any infectious disease), we reserve the right to ask you to remove him or her from the classroom.

We define an infectious disease as any disease that spreads from one person to another person. These may include, but are not limited to, HIV, tuberculosis, hepatitis, etc. We believe that God has called us to minister to all people and will, therefore, strive to provide an environment that is safe and accepting of everyone.

Children who appear, or become, ill at church will be isolated from the other children, and the parent/guardian will be summoned immediately.

Parents are asked to contact a member of the King's Cross Kids leadership team if their child contracts a communicable disease (such as chicken pox, head lice, filth disease, etc.) after attending a King's Cross Kids gathering.

The King's Cross Kids sickness policy exists for the protection of the children in our care. We regret that it sometimes means not admitting children that have been brought to our public gatherings.

Food Policies

Feeding young children is a serious responsibility.

Children should be fed before coming to church.

A snack of water and Goldfish or Whales will be served to children one year old and up. Please refrain from sending snacks or juice boxes from home.

If lesson plans call for any snacks or food tasting other than these, an "Allergy Alert" sign will be posted at the classroom door.

Please let the classroom teacher know if your child may not taste these foods or has an allergy.

Restroom and Diaper Policy

Adult staff volunteers may accompany children to the restroom and stand outside while the child uses the restroom. If children need assistance or supervision while in the restroom, more than one adult must always be present. No adult will ever be alone with a child.

It is the policy of King's Cross Kids that all diaper changes and toilet assistance will be done in the presence of two adults. To protect children and adults, male servants will not change diapers.

Discipline Policy

The effective spiritual formation of all our children requires a stable environment. The role of King's Cross Kids is to support and supplement parental training by upholding high standards for behavior, respect and discipline. Some of the expectations we have for your child include:

- Every child participates with a willing heart, eager to learn and obey. The attitude should be respectful to authority.
- The child is to avoid being disruptive or distracting to the mission and purpose of the children's ministry.
- Disrespect (whether verbally, by gesture, in attitude, or by action) is unacceptable.
- Misbehavior (including, but not limited to, persistent talking, distracting others, not following instructions, ignoring instructions or directions, or interacting inappropriately with others in the class) is unacceptable.

If your child is being disruptive or unruly, volunteers are trained to give the child verbal warnings and to place the child in "time out" if disobedience persists. If these measures

do not resolve the issue, we will text/call you and ask you to remove your child from the room.

Since our goal is to assist you in the effective training and instruction of your child, teachers and Children's Ministry leaders will talk with you about any consistent behavioral problems we are experiencing with your child. Sometimes kids will be kids, and we're okay with that! But Scripture does teach that proper training and expectations are crucial to raising godly children (Proverbs 22:6). A major goal during all disciplinary situations is to help children see that they have sinned against God and their neighbor and to encourage asking for and extending forgiveness.

No child at King's Cross will be subject to: corporal punishment (including, but not limited to, rough handling, ear pulling, shaking, slapping, hitting, and spanking); emotional abuse (including, but not limited to, name calling, shaming, threatening, humiliation, or yelling); or the use of physical restraint (unless restraint is necessary to protect others from harm). If any servant or staff is guilty of inappropriate action toward a child, he or she may be subject to discipline by the church. Furthermore, he or she may be subject to criminal and/or civil assault charges under the laws of the state of Florida.

Sanitation and Hygiene Policies

The very nature of childhood behavior can create an environment that has the potential to spread infection. Therefore, it is our commitment to try and maintain the safest and cleanest atmosphere possible to ensure the health and welfare of all children. Strict hand washing with soap and water is of utmost importance in preventing the spread of infection. In addition, hand sanitizer will be maintained in the nursery.

Emergency Action Plan

First Aid—Although we strive to maintain the safest environment possible, it is known that the nature of children's activities occasionally leads to accidents. A fully-equipped first aid kit is accessible in the nursery building.

It is the policy of King's Cross Kids to first notify the child's parents in the event of a medical incident. In the event that the parents are not immediately available, childcare workers will administer appropriate treatment measures such as applying pressure or a bandage to a bleeding wound. No pharmacological treatment, oral or topical, will be administered. Life-threatening situations will, of course, be handled as emergencies with appropriate treatment measures being immediately instituted. 911 and parents will be notified immediately. King's Cross will not be responsible for any "Good Samaritan" assistance offered by any of its members.