

## Because We Care...

### Brief Policy Description:

God has blessed our church family with many wonderful children whom we love dearly. With this in mind, we want to do everything we can to protect our children from child abuse. Child abuse is a criminal act as well as a violation of human conscience and dignity. The devastating effects on the children, as well as the credibility of the church ministry and the name of Christ make it essential that the church take all appropriate steps to prevent abusive incidences from occurring. We are committed to providing a safe place with excellent ministry programs led by qualified staff in order to train our children to love God and His Word.

We are a people called and protected by God. As we are under God's care, we acknowledge that we also have a role to play in providing a safe, secure, loving environment for children to participate in where parents feel comfortable leaving their child. Therefore, we have established policies and procedures that reflect our desire to prevent child abuse and to stop child abuse as we become aware of it.

### The "Because We Care" program has four purposes:

1. To provide a safe and secure environment for our children. Childhood innocence and trust is a gift given by God, and it is our responsibility as a church to safeguard this.
2. To provide guidelines and training for our volunteer workers - to enable them to be aware of this important issue and allow their service to be above reproach.
3. To protect our volunteer workers, providing them with an atmosphere for service where unfounded accusations of misconduct are staved off by good childcare practices.
4. To protect the credibility of the church's ministry and the name of Christ.

### All adults serving in CM must complete all aspects of the BWC process:

- Attend a BWC training session
- Provide 2 references
- Complete a Criminal Records Check (no charge for volunteers)
- Complete a ministry application form

Please refer to the Because We Care Policy Manual (available from Patti Read) for a more in-depth detailed description of the policy and its procedures.

*For more information on Children's Ministry Programs at Ebenezer Baptist Church, please call Patti Read at 249-0084.*



**CONGRATULATIONS  
ON YOUR NEW  
ARRIVAL!**

*Information for New Parents  
about Children's Ministries at  
Ebenezer Baptist Church*



***We at Ebenezer rejoice with you at the arrival of your new little one. The purpose of this brochure is to inform you of the programs and support we offer for you and your child.***

### *The Cry Room*

Located off the foyer to the far left of the sanctuary, this room is available to mothers with young babies who want a quiet, private place to rock or feed their child. Equipped with a playpen, numerous rocking chairs, and a separate bathroom and diaper changing area, the one-way windows and audio system allow the occupant to see and hear the service while providing privacy (one-way windows).

### *The Nursery (Birth to 2 years)*

Our nursery is a loving, caring environment where His littlest can come anytime on a Sunday morning for a snack, play or even a nap. At least two “Because We Care” trained adults are present at all times in the nursery. When leaving your child at the nursery, you will receive a numbered pager so that the nursery staff can page you if your baby needs you. The nursery is located off the back of the RUSH room – turn right immediately after the double doors at the end of the foyer, then go straight to the doors on the far wall. The Nursery runs during both Sunday morning services & LRT time.

*As a new parent, you may find it difficult to leave your infant in someone else’s care. However, many parents who have chosen to use the nursery at Ebenezer have found that it is a very good place to take those first steps towards getting their baby and themselves used to short periods of separation. The safe, caring and fun environment combined with screened and trained volunteers means you can have peace of mind that your baby will be safe and well cared for. You are welcome to check on your child at any time, and workers will page you if your child needs you. In addition, as one mom has commented “I found the nursery at Ebenezer to be an excellent place to help my baby get used to being cared for by others, and by starting around 5 or 6 months of age we avoided much of the separation anxiety and ‘making strange’ that an older baby might do in the same situation. It also helped my husband and me to actually be able to sit through the service together!”*

The nursery is staffed through a “co-op” arrangement where parents of nursery-aged children, and any other interested volunteers, are placed on the nursery schedule rotation when their infant reaches about 6 months of age. You are welcome to leave your child in the nursery even if you have not yet been added to the volunteer list. The Nursery Coordinators will do their best to contact you before you are added to the rotation to find out your preference regarding 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> service, and to discuss other details including orientation, “Because We Care” training (see back of this pamphlet for more details on this important policy), and answer any questions you may have. If you choose not to use the nursery at all for your little one, please contact Patti Read to ensure that you are not put on the nursery volunteer rotation.

### **Kidzone** (2 & 3 year olds)

KidZone offers toddlers a fun-filled time during both Sunday morning services, with a variety of activities - play time, snack time, Bible stories, songs and games. The Kidzone room is located on the right side at the end of the hallway off the main foyer. A bathroom with a toddler-sized toilet is located just off the main play area for easy access. KidZone is largely staffed in a “co-op” arrangement, with parents of participating children serving on the volunteer team.

### **RUSH** (Ages 4 to Grade 4)

RUSH is a high-energy, group learning time, when kids who are ages 4—Grade 4 come together and have fun! RUSH is during both the first and second services every Sunday morning. Watch for the RUSH dismissal slide during the service! The RUSH room is located directly to the right after the double doors off the foyer.

### *Kids’ Small Groups (Ages 2 to Grade 6)*

Kids’ Small Groups is a special time between the two Sunday morning services, (10:15-11am), when kids head off to their own classrooms to get more focused, hands-on, age-appropriate teaching. Locations vary by age group (ages 2&3 in Kidzone room).

### *Other Support*

If you have any other needs as you raise your children, we at Ebenezer would love to hear from you and provide you with support in any way we can.