

## *RiverKids FAQ's*

At RiverKids, we know that your child's nursery, preschool and elementary years are filled with astonishing growth and rapid development; growth and development that was created by an all-knowing God. They are developing their language skills, as well as a budding personality. This is a critical time of building a foundation for the rest of their lives. And we do not take this knowledge lightly. We want to partner with you to help your child fulfill their God-given potential. We are passionate about raising the next generation of leaders who are kind, curious, knowledgeable and loving.

### *Our Mission*

The mission is to love children and their families. We want every child that comes through our doors to know this truth: GOD LOVES YOU! And we will do whatever we can to pour into your child the passion to love God and love people. We strive to provide a safe and secure environment where every child learns from the Bible. We do this through engaging Bible stories, age based conversations, singing and exciting activities. Every time young children come to our church, they are taught God's love from the Bible. We hope you'll join us one Sunday morning!

### *The Bible*

Every child in our care is taught God's love from the Bible. Our focus for all children, from newborns to preteens, is to show them God's love. We want to help your children build a fundamental knowledge of the Bible to foster a lifelong pattern of loving God, and loving others. Each Sunday, our crafts, skits, songs and stories will focus on a central Christian lesson originated from the Bible that is designed to let your child meet Jesus on their level. We aim to make each topic engaging, age appropriate and heartfelt.

### *Partnering with Parents*

We only get to spend a couple of hours a month with your children, so we want to make the most of that time. We also understand the importance of equipping parents to reinforce the Sunday lessons is critical to the spiritual development of your child. Every Sunday, we will have resources available for you so you will know exactly what we are teaching your children. We also encourage you to download the "Parent Cue" app on any iOS or Android device. This is an incredible tool for both you and your child.

### *Serving in RiverKids*

Do you have a desire to serve in children's ministry? We would be honored to partner with you in any capacity. At Riverbend we believe that if you get something out of a program; give something back to it! Whether you want to help with weekly crafts, check-in duty or lesson teaching from the big stage: we have a place for you! All you have to do is email Susan Kennedy at [skennedy@riverbend.com](mailto:skennedy@riverbend.com) **Please note: ALL of our volunteers go through background checks and training/orientation to ensure a safe and consistent Sunday school environment.**

## *When you...*

Arrive at the check-in desk, someone will be happy to get your child checked into his or her proper location. When checking in a child into the nursery building you will receive three printed labels. These labels will reflect your child's name, your contact information, your child's allergies and their room number/location. One of the labels will go on your child's back, the other on their bag and the last label you will keep. In Preschool, you will receive 2 labels and a security tag while Kinder- 5<sup>th</sup> grade you will only receive 1 tag for the child and one security tag. Please hang onto the security label and return it to your child's caregiver upon picking them up. If you do not have your sticker at pick up, you will be asked to show your I.D. to the worker/volunteer. This label system will ensure the safety and security of your child. Thank you for allowing us to care for your little blessings!

## *Health and Safety*

The health and well-being of your child is very important to us. Rooms are thoroughly cleaned and toys are always sanitized. To help us protect against germs and illness, we cannot accept children that have had symptoms in the last 24 hours. Symptoms include, but are not limited to the following; fever, vomiting, diarrhea, and any other possible contagious reactions. If your child appears to develop any of these symptoms while in our care, you will be notified immediately. Riverbend Church practices (AAPA) American Pediatric sleep standards for all infants

## *First Aid*

You can rest assured that your child will be watched over carefully the entire time they are in our care. They will never be left unattended or without complete adult supervision. We also realize that children will occasionally get a bump or scratch from playing. In the event that any accident requiring first aid occurs depending on the severity, an incident report form will be filled out for you to sign during pick-up. Minor instances where a child is not upset or apparently injured will be reported to you during pick-up.

## *Crying*

It is natural for children to experience some "separation anxiety". Our loving staff will make every attempt to help your child feel safe and secure. A quick exit with a simple hug and kiss goodbye is encouraged. This will give your child time to adjust more rapidly within our program. Typically, children will calm down within a few minutes after your departure. If your child cannot be comforted with special attention, we will call you at the contact number you provided on your child's sticker. If your child has been crying for five minutes we immediately call you as well.

## *Feeding and Snacks*

Please provide all bottles and necessary feeding supplies for infants and crawlers and inform your child's caregiver of the times your child needs to be fed. We provide snacks consisting of cheerios and animal crackers and goldfish for children in the toddler, preschool and K-2nd areas.

## *Age Divisions*

Your child will be placed in the appropriate classroom according to age and or ability. The infant room is strictly for infant and beginning crawlers. Once they are on the move, they will be placed with other crawlers until they become “experienced” walkers. While our rooms are designated by age, it’s important to know that they must be developmentally ready for the next stage for safety reasons. Since each child develops at their own pace, we will make sure and move them up according to their individual needs and developmental stages. They will graduate from our Nursery Program to our Preschool Program once they are at least 3 years of age and fully potty-trained. If you have any questions or concerns about your child’s placement, please feel free to speak to us about it. It is always our goal to make sure your child is happy and safe while they are in our care.

## *Diapers*

Your child’s diaper will be checked and changed as necessary. Our caregivers wear gloves to protect from germs and will wash hands thoroughly between each change. Please provide sufficient diapers, rash cream, or the necessary items for diapering your child. If special instructions are needed, please list that on the information sheet or in for your child’s caregiver.

## *Label Belongings*

Please label everything your child brings into the children’s ministry department. This will help us keep personal items together. This includes bottles, cups, feeding supplies, blankets, jackets, extra clothing, etc. Extra labels are available at the check-in desk if necessary. We do have a lost and found bucket we keep for any items that are left behind or forgotten. Feel free to ask us to look through it if you have lost any of your child’s items. We throw away and or give away items to our mobile loaves and fishes outreach after three months.

Stay connected to all upcoming RiverKids events by following us on our “Riverbend Kids” Facebook page.