

# PRESCHOOL

SANTA BARBARA COMMUNITY CHURCH



## PRESCHOOL THROUGH KINDERGARTEN

The target for preschool Sunday activities can be summed up in one word: LOVE. We want the children to know God loves them and seek to communicate this through the way we interact with them as much as through what we teach them.

## WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE FOR MY CHILD?

At SBCC we believe God desires to meet each of us exactly where we are, so we try to meet your preschool child in the same way. We want to bring God's love to this age group which is "wired" for play, as well as growing in their vocabularies and abilities to absorb stories and other cognitive information. We encourage our leaders to use the playtime and story time to engage the children to see God's love for them.

We also seek to use lessons with content that is accessible to families for use in their home discipleship. For this reason, we provide resources to equip families to engage with their children spiritually during the week.

## WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING MY CHILD?

Since we have a familial church model our entire church is involved in the care of the children. As a parent, we know you're naturally invested in your child's spiritual nurture on Sundays and we depend on your participation. We encourage you to consider serving as a small group leader or storyteller. If you are in a Homegroup you will be scheduled to serve in childcare 3-4 times a year. If you are not currently in a Homegroup, please contact us so we can put you on our childcare sublist. If you prefer, you are welcome to serve with an age group other than preschool.

## WHAT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

## MIGHT BE AVAILABLE?

Since we believe there is no substitute for a faith based walk in parenting, we seek to provide ways to encourage your faith as a parent. We also desire to equip parents in their role as the primary spiritual nurturers of their children. Our goal is to provide you with resources and ideas to nurture your child spiritually through a variety of ways including interfacing with what they are learning on Sundays, getting to know their church friends, and taking part in the leadership in Children's Ministry as much as possible.

## HOW ARE SMALL GROUPS DETERMINED?

We do two groupings each year coinciding with the academic calendar: June, and September. The children remain in a large group during our summer sessions but are placed in a small group with designated leaders from Sept-June each year. These small groups provide a venue for children to build relationships within the group. We strongly encourage parents to commit to a specific service so that this consistency will enable the children to feel the love we desire this age group to experience.

The groups are based on birthdates and are balanced according to many other factors including gender, attendance, and group dynamics. We do want to take into consideration individual needs so please **contact Claire Bergthold at [claire@sbcommunity.org](mailto:claire@sbcommunity.org)** if you have any concerns or questions about your child's placement.

## WHAT ARE THE LEADER QUALIFICATIONS?

Our teachers and leaders have a professed a relationship with Christ, a desire to introduce children to Him and have completed a screening process that includes a legal background check. We seek to be thorough in our

assessment of leaders to assure the safety of all the children in their care.

As an extension of the view of our church as a family, we also implement a system of Homegroup childcare. Those who serve on this informal basis are supervised by the teachers and leaders and our church has a strict policy that we never allow an adult to be alone with a child.

## HOW ARE BEHAVIORAL ISSUES HANDLED?

We view intervention with a child who is having difficulty participating as a springboard for meaningful interaction with the child and family. We recognize the necessity of partnership in this stage of your child's life, learning from you how best to love your child. Your life with your child gives you insight that we can't gain in an hour and a half on Sunday, so we value communication with you and believe it is critical in our efforts to really love your child and your family.

Our three-step intervention policy is hopefully, as stated above, a window into learning from others how to better love your child. Our response to disruptive behavior is to:

1. Give the child a clear warning.
2. If the behavior does not stop, pull the child aside and give them time to regroup.
3. If the child is still having a hard time, we will get the parent or guardian from church and explain to them that we have reached an impasse with their child and need their help.