

- Treat all children with respect and dignity befitting their age.
- Not engage in or tolerate any of the following:
 - ▶ inappropriate or intrusive touching;
 - ▶ harsh physical contact to control or discipline a child (see appendix A “The Definition of Child Abuse” in the FBC Child Protection Policy);
 - ▶ rough or sexually provocative activities;
 - ▶ sexually suggestive comments about or to a child;
 - ▶ the ridicule or rejection of any child.
- Not directly communicate with a child outside church activities (phone or email), or invite him/her to events outside the church building without permission from the parent or guardian.
- Avoid showing favoritism to any child.
- Never be alone with any child on the church property, on the way to or from church activities, or in homes and other isolated areas.

This covenant is in reference to and support of the Child Protection Policy of First Baptist Church of Rockford, IL; a copy of which can be furnished upon request. If you have any questions, comments or constructive suggestions, please contact the Pastor or your deacon. This covenant was introduced to the people of First Baptist Church in June of 2012.

CHILD CARE COVENANT

First Baptist Church of Rockford, IL



To create a safe, loving, and godly environment in which the children entrusted to our care are able to learn about the character of God, and discover biblical truth and what it means to follow Jesus Christ.

General Statement:

This covenant corporately acknowledges a solemn commitment between the members of First Baptist Church of Rockford, IL to provide a safe and secure environment for children who participate in our programs and activities. By implementing the following practices and guidelines, it is our goal to protect the children of First Baptist Church from incidents of negligence, misconduct or inappropriate behavior while also guarding our staff and volunteers from false accusations.

As members of First Baptist Church we commit ourselves first to prayer, asking the Lord for biblical wisdom and discernment in properly nurturing, protecting, and safekeeping all of the children entrusted to our care. We recognize that the paramount responsibility for children lies with their parents; thus, we wish to support and strengthen parental responsibility through this ministry. We further recognize that the care and ministry of our children is also the responsibility of the church family as a whole. Hence, it is the responsibility of each individual member to perform their due diligence in preventing the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children, as well as to appropriately handle any abuse discovered or suspected. This church is committed to carefully selecting, supporting, resourcing and training those members who work with and supervise our children.

Mission:

The children's ministry of FBC exists to glorify God by:

- Supporting and encouraging parents in teaching biblical truths to their children (Ephesians 6:4)
- Making the whole counsel of the Scriptures known to children with special emphasis on the Gospel (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Romans 1:16-17)
- Praying that the Holy Spirit regenerates each child through the faithful teaching of His Word (Romans 10:17; Ephesians 2:4-10)
- Faithfully modeling how Christians are called to respond to God and how to interact with each other and the world around us (Matthew 5:16; I Corinthians 11:1)
- Exposing each child to the need of the gospel in hopes of inspiring self-sacrifice and zeal for the cause of Jesus Christ around the world (Matthew 28:18-20)

Parent and Care giver Expectations:

All parents and children's ministry volunteers share a particular responsibility for:

- Loving the children as Christ loves

them.

- Setting an example of proper Christian conduct in the way we live our lives.
- Biblically ministering to the children.
- Understanding that the care of children is not a right, but a privilege with responsibility from God to minister to and care for them.

Practices and Guidelines for the Care of Children:

For the safety of the children in our care, every children's ministry worker should:

- Be screened by the Pastor or the Board of Deacons.
- Be trained and routinely informed of updated policies and procedures.
- Be educated to recognize child abuse and report any known or suspected misconduct to church officials, who will appropriately contact government authorities. (see the FBC Child Protection Policy)
- Ensure that all primary care givers are eighteen years of age or older. Youth who are at least fourteen years of age may assist after the mutual approval of their parents, the Pastor or deacons.