

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY POLICY

The Children's Ministry of Hillview Baptist Church exists to assist parents and guardians in providing spiritual formation through age-appropriate biblical teaching, reinforcement, and activities. The Children's Ministry aims to provide a safe, secure, and structured environment to which parents can confidently entrust their children while participating in adult ministries. The ministry is divided into two categories: *Nursery* and *K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade*.

### AGES:

- The nursery provides care from birth to four years old.
- The nursery provides separate spaces for infant care and toddlers.
- Children from Kindergarten through Sixth Grade have class provided during Sunday School and Wednesday evening programming. Children over five years old participate in the worship service with parents and/or guardians.

### SAFETY:

- All volunteers in direct contact with minors must pass a multi-state background check.
- No less than two volunteers will be present in the nursery at all times.
- All beds, rockers, and other items in the nursery are OSHA approved.
- At times when the congregation is meeting in the sanctuary, all exterior doors leading to the educational wing, fellowship hall, and office will remain locked.

### REGISTRATION:

- All children and parents must complete the nursery registration form.
- Children may only be picked up by persons listed on the nursery registration form.

### WORKER QUALIFICATIONS:

- All Children's Ministry volunteers must participate in Child Safety Orientation, at which point the guidelines of the Children's Ministry Policy will be clearly explained.
- Of the two volunteers present at any given time, one must have actively attended Hillview Baptist Church for a period of at least six months. After three months of active attendance, a person may volunteer under the watch care of an experienced Children's Ministry volunteer.
- Of the two volunteers present at any given time, one must be a female over the age of 18. Teenagers from 13-17 years of age may serve as helpers.
- Per safety recommendations, close family members are discouraged from volunteering without the presence of a non-family member, i.e., spouses, parent and child, or siblings.

*All volunteers are required by law to report suspected abuse of any kind to local authorities. In such cases, the pastor should be informed and should consult parents concerning suspicions.*