



This handbook is provided for you by:

**Grace Point Church
Planet Kids**

So that you may know the guidelines and better understand the program as we work together to help your child grow as Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor of God and man.



Grace Point Church Parent Handbook



1201 NE McCollum RD
Bentonville, AR 72719
(479) IN-GRACE
www.gracepointchurch.net

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the Planet Kids Program at Grace Point Church. Our program exists for you and your child. We will strive to provide the loving care and guidance that your child needs as he/she grows and develops.

As parents, you play a vital role in our ministry to your child. This handbook is designed to help you understand our program, its mission, and the guidelines under which we operate. You are always welcome to visit, ask questions, and make suggestions. Cooperation between parents and staff will contribute to a successful experience for your child. Our church values children and believes in families. We sponsor this children's program as a ministry of the church to provide a learning environment that will help preschoolers grow as Jesus grew. "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52).

This handbook has been prepared so that you may know the guidelines and better understand the program as we work together to help your child through a successful year in our children's program.

Ministry Philosophy

At Grace Point Church we strive to ENJOY the kids of Northwest Arkansas. We want to:

Encourage children to learn about God and his love for us. (Matthew 19:14)

Nurture and care for children so that they may grow as Jesus grew. (Luke 2:52)

Join with parents in teaching children God's Word and God's commandments. (Deuteronomy 6:7)

Offer a safe and secure environment for the children. (Matthew 18:6)

Yield and show God's love to His children so that they will know God through our actions.

(Deuteronomy 6:5-9)

Who is Planet Kids for?

Planet Kids is for kids 1st through 5th grades who want to worship God in a fun-filled, high-energy environment. They will stay in that room year-round until promotion Sunday. Promotion Sunday is June 7th, 2009.

What is Planet Kids?

Planet Kids occurs during the adult worship times and is a separate small/large group bible study geared just for kids and taught by adults who love to be with kids and enjoy teaching them God's truth.

Meeting Times

Our children meet during both services of Grace Point Church, 9:00-10:15 and 10:35-11:50 every Sunday morning. If your child will be in Planet Kids through both services, we offer an Extended Care Session during the 10:35 service so he/she will not hear the same lesson twice.

Curriculum

We use a media-oriented curriculum named "KIDMO" by Orbit Church. KIDMO is not about information, but transformation and not about just biblical stories, but a biblical worldview. Below is KIDMO's Koncept of what they are about:

"We strive to teach God's truth in ways that impact a child's choices and actions. Creativity and imagination are precious resources for penetrating their language and culture. Kids must be needed, valued, and connected. Their church experience must be relevant to their daily lives. Kids have time, availability, and enthusiasm to accomplish great things for His Kingdom. A kid's day-to-day existence is not side tracked by many of the complications that distract their adult counterparts. By teaching them to develop a biblical worldview, we can ignite an awakening that will impact generations to come. For the same reason that Jesus gave his attention to kids, we believe kids grow best when nurtured by loving mentors and teachers. "

Kidmo believes in bible action, not just bible study. They believe that kids are not just the church of tomorrow, but that they can be World changers right now. They understand that after age twelve, most people beliefs are set for life. Therefore, KIDMO's purpose is to inspire world changers by equipping kids to:

Know God.

Does God exist?
What are the attributes of God?
What is the character of God?
What is prayer?
What is worship?

Integrate a Biblical worldview.

How and why was the world created?
What is the nature and purpose of humanity?
Why did God create me?
What is good and evil?
How do I make right choices?

Discover Truth.

What is truth?
What does the Bible mean to me?
How can I experience God?

What spiritual authorities exist?
What happens after we die on earth?

Make Christ Known.

What is the Church?
What is the mission of the Church?
How does the body of Christ function?
How can I help others know Christ?
How can I pray for others?

Offer Themselves In Service.

What gifts has God given me?
How can I use my time and money to serve God?
What can I do to serve the church?
What can I do to serve my community?
What can I do to serve those in other countries?

Teachers

Our teachers are church members who have a heart for children and an enthusiasm for sharing the love of God. All our teachers have gone through a background check and screening process. In addition, each teacher must agree to the following Statement of Policy and Code of Ethics.

Statement of Policy for Workers with Children

- Adults who have been convicted of either sexual or physical abuse of a child should not volunteer service in any church-sponsored activity or program for children.

- Adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse need the love and acceptance of the church family. Individuals who have such a history should discuss their desire to work with children with the Pastor prior to engaging in any volunteer service.
- All adult volunteers working with children are required to be active members at Grace Point Church. Any exception must be reviewed by the Pastor or Associate Pastor.
- Two adults should be in the room at all times.
- Adult volunteers should immediately report to the Pastor any behaviors which seem abusive or inappropriate.

Code of Ethics

- 1) Teachers shall understand and agree with the mission and purpose of the Grace Point Church General Purpose Statement.
- 2) Teachers shall not abuse children, including:
 - a) Physical Abuse - strike, spank, shake, slap
 - b) Verbal Abuse - humiliate, degrade, threaten

- c) Sexual Abuse - inappropriate touching and exposure
- 3) Teachers must adhere to the following conditions regarding children's personal hygiene:
 - a) At no time should a teacher and child be alone in a bathroom with the door closed.
 - b) Teachers should only change diapers in the presence of another adult.

Policies

Health & Safety

Children who have a contagious illness or exhibit signs of illness (fever, diarrhea, vomiting, or a suspicious-looking rash) may not attend. If your child becomes ill during the service, he/she will be isolated from the group and you will be called to pick him/her up immediately.

If an accident occurs and your child is hurt, the teacher will fill out an accident report detailing what happened. You will be asked to sign this report so that the children's director can verify you have been notified of the circumstances.

The program exercises reasonable care and judgment in all matters related to safety. In all emergencies the program has permission to take such reasonable measures as are, in the judgment of the teacher or director, necessary for the welfare and safety of the child until a parent can be reached.

Toys

No toys may be brought from home unless requested by a teacher in writing.

Check-in

We desire to keep a secure environment for our children. When you arrive at our ministry campus, you will be asked to register your child and provide any information you want us to know about allergies, health concerns, and more. Our trained personnel will check your child in through our electronic security program.

Each child will receive a tag to stick on their back that has a unique security code on it, their name, their classroom, and any of the information about your child you wished to disclose. You will receive a receipt that only has the unique security code of the child and the date of the event. In the case you are checking in more than one child, a single security code is used for all children so you do not have to juggle multiple receipts.

Should a parent be needed during the Worship Service, the child's number will appear on a screen in the auditorium. When picking up your child from the classroom, you will be asked to show the corresponding number to the child's teacher.

Food

We are a peanut-free facility. Please do not send your child to Planet Kids with any item containing peanuts.

Outdoor Play

If there are any excursions outside of the classroom, the teacher will put a poster on the door

of the classroom to announce the location of the children.

Discipline

In order to insure that each child receives the full benefit of our program, we desire that each one begin to learn the value of being attentive to God's Word:

Proverbs 16:20 - Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is he who trusts in the Lord.

Proverbs 3:1 - My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart.

The following are our classroom guidelines to aid this process for each child:

- 1) Listen quietly when others are speaking.
- 2) Follow leader's directions the first time they are given.
- 3) Respect others' property.
- 4) Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself.
- 5) Speak politely to others.

If these guidelines are not followed, there are consequences as follows:

- 1) Verbal warning.

- 2) Time out from next activity (separated from class activity with adult supervision).
- 3) Inform parents of child's behavior if more than one time out occurs per session.

Children who follow the guidelines will be rewarded with:

- 1) Verbal praise.
- 2) Stickers or other items.
- 3) Special privileges (helper to teacher, etc.).

The program reserves the right to dismiss any child if, after entering, his/her behavior prevents participation in group experiences.