

Grace Kids Wednesday Ministries Info Sheet, 2025-2026

Cubbies, 3 year-olds-PreKers

Handbook:

Cubbies will first complete the *Welcome to Apple Acres* booklet. Upon completing this booklet, children will work through the *AppleSeed* handbook. The booklet and handbook is divided up into sections called "Bear Hugs," one of which will be completed every week. Your child will want to complete each "Bear Hug" at home. After your child completes the "Bear Hug" at home, please sign your child's handbook on the line where it says "Parent's Signature." When your child recites the verse from that "Bear Hug" to their leader, the leader will sign where it says "Leader's Signature."

Uniform:

A Cubbies uniform consists of a Cubbies vest and ***closed-toe & heel shoes (tennis shoes are recommended)***. Please make sure your child is wearing ***closed-toe & heel shoes*** as this is very important during game time. Open-toe shoes pose such a danger to those precious little feet when they are running due to tripping or accidentally getting toes stepped on. We want children to have a great time and be injury free!

Incentives:

For each unit of "Bear Hugs" (a unit consists of 4 "Bear Hugs") your child completes, he or she will be able to choose a prize from the Cubbies Prize Box. If a child completes all 4 of these Bear Hugs at home (with a parent signature), then they will be able to choose 2 prizes! (See below for more info about completing sections at home.)

Three other incentives will be offered around October 29, January 7, and March 4. If a child completes $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, or $\frac{3}{4}$ of their handbook by any of these dates they will be able to participate in the Water Balloon Throw, Braum's Ice Cream Certificate, or Pie Throw on the incentive nights. (8 Wednesday nights-worth of sections constitutes $\frac{1}{4}$ of the handbook. For Cubbies, this means that for each 8 "Bear Hugs" a child completes, he or she will be able to participate in one of these incentives.)

Book Awards:

- A child will receive a patch on his/her uniform for each unit of "Bear Hugs" that he/she completes.
- A child will receive an award at the end of the year for completing his/her handbook and *Welcome to Apple Acres* booklet. In order to receive this award, he/she will need to have completed all of the "Bear Hugs" in the handbook and the booklet.

Spending Time With God At Home

As in previous years, **we are encouraging and motivating children to complete their Bear Hug sections at home**. The handbook is a wonderful devotional tool to help children learn more about God, His Word, having a relationship with Him, and growing in a relationship with Jesus. So, please make it a point to work with your child every week & help them complete their section.

Each week there is a story that will coincide with that week's puppet time on Wednesday evening. (There is also a hidden bee in each week's story that your child will want to find!) You can read this story with your child or they can listen to an audio version available at awana.org/cubbiesdownloads (search for *AppleSeed ESV Audio*) or graceplacechurch.org/awana. After completing the story, there will be a verse for the children to work on and then a place for you to sign off once your child completes all of the required elements of that Bear Hug. These required elements are listed on the last page of each section where you sign your name.

There is also a portion in each "Bear Hug" called Under the Apple Tree. While doing this part is not a requirement for completing a section, your child will enjoy these activities and it will help reinforce the truths they are learning.

Every portion of each "Bear Hug" and every component of their time at Grace Kids Wednesday Ministries ties together to reinforce that week's main point/theme—from the story, verse, and Under the Apple Tree to the puppet show, lesson time, and activity/craft time.

Why are we doing these things?

- God gave us His Word not so we would place it in short term memory just long enough to recite it to someone else (and then end up forgetting it or not applying it to our lives). He gave us His Word ultimately so that we would be changed. (See 2 Timothy 3:16-17.) I trust that the class activities and the work done at home will help children better remember, love, and live out God's Word.
- At Grace Place, we value family and believe that God has called parents to be the primary spiritual influencers in the lives of their children. That's why we're asking parents to be intentionally engaged in the growth of their children and utilize their child's handbook & Wednesday ministry experience toward that end. Parents, your children are dependent upon you for their spiritual growth, and the Lord will enable you to lead your children as you depend upon Him! You can do it and we are here to encourage and come alongside of you!