**Horizon Christian Fellowship Children’s Ministry**

**Welcome!**

Welcome to Horizon CHristian Fellowship! We are so glad to have you with us. Below you will find some useful information for new families and children. Please reach out if you have further questions!

**Children’s Ministry Vision:** To love, serve and shepherd children so that they are encouraged to choose a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, to grow in their relationship with Him, and to be equipped to live a life committed to serving Him.

**Children’s Ministry Directors:**

Todd and Jessica Vessey

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Horizonlacrosse.org

**Sunday Curriculum:** Answers in Genesis.

With this curriculum children explore the entire Bible in a 4 year time period. Children will be sent home each week with a TAKE HOME SHEET. Each age classroom is covering the same material so this sheet allows for you as a family to discuss what the child is learning and/or do a family devotional at home to reinforce these lessons. We also encourage the children to fill the sheets out, have parents initial and then bring them back the next week for an extra prize:)

**Wednesday night curriculum:** Awana program Sept-May [www.awanaplus.com](http://www.awanaplus.com)

Puggles, Cubbies, Sparks and TnT programs(ages 1yr -6th grade)

**Classrooms include:**

Nursery: ages 0-1

Little Sprouts curriculum

Toddler: ages 2-3

Little Kids can know God- CEF

Age 4-6yr classroom

Answers in Genesis

Age 7-12yr classroom

Answers in Genesis

\*children will be allowed to move up to the next level classroom upon turning the desired age prior to Sept 1st each year. Nursery will be evaluated to move up in September and January.

**Safety and security:**

 All Volunteers in the children's ministry at Horizon are screened with a background check and have agreed with Horizon’s mission. We strive to have at least two volunteers for each age classroom (this is not always possible but volunteers always maintain visibility with unblocked doors/windows and are never alone with a single child).

We ask that each child be checked in and checked out by a parent or guardian when joining us for children’s ministry( please don’t send siblings to check out unless discussed w/the directors).

**Illness Policy:**

 We strive to maintain well child rooms. Please keep your child at home if they have the following symptoms:

 -Fever over 100.4 within 24hrs

 -Vomiting/Diarrhea within 24hrs

 -skin rashes

 -yellow/green nasal discharge

 -persistent cough

 -conjunctivitis(pink eye)

 -lice/ringworm

 -any possibly contagious symptom

 \*Should these symptoms develop during the child’s time in class we will remove the child from the room and make them as comfortable as possible until we can contact you to let you know of the situation.

**ALLERGIES:**

Please let us know if your child has any allergies or dietary restrictions as we do give out candy and/or snacks at times. Let the volunteers know if you do not want this on a certain day. You can also update your child’s allergies and/or make notes on our Horizon App so they show up on our check in stickers.

**Restroom policy:**

1. **ALL children should use the restroom with parents prior to being checked in to children’s ministry.**

Only fully toilet trained children will be taken to the restrooms by a volunteer. The volunteer will wait outside the restroom for the child. This is for the safety of the child and volunteer.

 Parents should be aware if their child is potty training that they may get a text message(please leave your cell #) or have someone come get them to take their child to the restroom should they need to go during their time in children’s ministry.

 Volunteers will change diapers at their discretion when another volunteer is present in the room unless told otherwise by the parent. **Please try to label your diaper bags/belongings with your name or child’s name to make it easier for volunteers.**

 **IN CASE OF FIRE/FIRE ALARM**: Please exit the building at the nearest exit. Children’s ministry has a fire exit plan posted; volunteers will direct children and you will be reunited with your child outside the building at the designated meeting spot.

**Communication:**

* We strive for open and honest communication
* Feel free to share ideas and/or concerns with the children’s ministry directors.
* Email is our primary means of communication. Please make sure the director has a valid email and check your emails for information about events, lessons, and program information. Urgent/time sensitive communication is best communicated by face, by phone or by text.
* please check out and download our Horizon app where you can put your child’s information in ahead of time. Information would include name, age, allergies, any special circumstances and your phone number.

**Discipline plan:**

Our emphasis is on positive discipline, where children see Godly role models in their teachers and leaders. We love “catching kids being good!” However, if a child struggles with disruptive, disrespectful or dangerous behavior, the following protocol will be used: the child will be given a warning and asked to be respectful to their teachers and classmates. If a child continues to be disruptive, they will be removed from the classroom to discuss their behavior. We hope to use these times as opportunities to discuss our hearts and how we rely on the Holy Spirit to help us and change us from the inside out. We often pray with the child and ask them to return for another chance. If the child chooses to continue to be disruptive, they will be asked to leave and the parents will be involved. The child may be asked to sit with their parent/guardian outside of class for an additional week and return upon apologizing to their teachers.

Bullying will not be tolerated. We want everyone to have a chance to learn and be comfortable in the classroom.

**Welcome to Horizon Christian Fellowship. We are glad you are here!**