

CHILD SAFETY POLICY

Wooster Mennonite Church
Policy

A. PURPOSE

To set guidelines for teachers and leaders of child or youth related activities, including nursery workers, in order to establish a safe and secure environment for children attending events at Wooster Mennonite Church.

B. ADMINISTRATION

1. Christian Formation Elder should review this policy with the Children's Sunday school teachers, and child care workers, every year.
2. Parents are responsible for contacting any adults working with their children concerning allergies their child(ren) may have or medical care that may be needed.
3. Care will be taken to prevent accidents/injuries. However, in the event of an accident/injury, a parent will be notified as soon as possible and will be consulted if immediate medical or hospital care is needed. Either a nursery worker, the child's teacher or a Children's Sunday school Superintendent will follow up with the parents as needed.
4. Parent's should not bring their child(ren) to the nursery if any of the following symptoms are present:
 - a. Nose drainage other than clear.
 - b. Loose bowel movements different than the child's normal bowel movement.
 - c. Vomiting, except the normal regurgitation of feedings of babies.
 - d. Eye drainage that has not been evaluated and/or treated by a physician.
 - e. A fever greater than 101 degrees.

C. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR TEACHERS AND NURSERY WORKERS

1. Pick up toys which are not being played with whenever possible to avoid tripping and falling.
2. Do not allow children under age 3 to play with small toys which they could swallow. If you think any of the toys in the nursery or your classroom might be too small to play with remove them from your play area and give them to one of the Children's Sunday School Superintendents or place them in the Sunday school supply room.
3. Do not use balloons.
4. Avoid the following food items when planning snacks for young children as they create the most common choking hazards: hot dogs, grapes, nuts, popcorn, hard candy, raw carrots and celery. Avoid peanut products due to allergies.
5. Children age 3 thru Grade 2 should only be dismissed from class to their parents unless other arrangements are made.
6. At least two children should be taken to the restroom at a time whenever possible.
7. Diapers are to be changed in a visible area with at least one other caregiver present whenever possible.

D. CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The nursery or other child care settings should have two adults present in order to provide a safety net for the adults and added protection for the children.
2. Due to the small size of most Sunday school classes, it is not practical to have two teachers for each class. Sunday school teachers should be trusted and experienced members of the congregation. If only one child is present for a particular Sunday school class, then the teacher and student should join another class for that day.
3. Whenever children are present there should be at least two adults in order to provide a safety net for the adults and added protection for the children. The only exception would be with the expressed permission of the parents of the children involved.