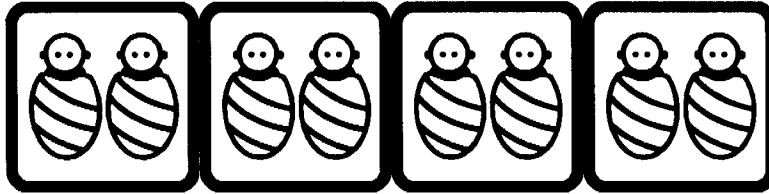


St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

# **Nursery Parent Information**



## **WELCOME TO ST. ANDREW'S NURSERY!**

St. Andrew's understands that Christian formation begins in the Nursery. How can St. Andrew's serve an infant or toddler? In several ways:

- 1) By employing only the best of professional and volunteer staff, and by training and screening them well.
- 2) By providing a safe, clean, secure, pleasant and uncrowded environment.
- 3) By establishing policies which keep these goals current.
- 4) By making it easy for parents to attend to their own spiritual lives, because they know their children are safe and secure.

To this end, St. Andrew's maintains a nursery for children ages three and under from 8:50 AM to 11:30 PM (during the school year), and 8:50 AM to 10:30 AM during the summer. Children through age four may also attend during the church service. The nursery is staffed by two professional employees, Lynn Berman and Holly Smith. These employees are to be CORI-checked and attend diocesan Safe Church Training.

To use the nursery, please sign your child in up with a regular church school registration, indicating allergies. St. Andrew's registers infants at birth for Christian formation, so please fill out the form available in the nursery or on-line at the parish website: [www.standrewsframma.org](http://www.standrewsframma.org).

## **Easing Separation Anxiety**

Shakespeare had it wrong: Parting from your toddler may truly be "sorrow," but it's rarely "sweet." A few simple guidelines can ease the transition from home to nursery with a minimum of anxiety for children and parents.

- ◆ Although it can be challenging to get out of the house in the morning, try to arrive a few minutes before the service starts. You and your child will feel less anxiety if you don't feel rushed.
- ◆ Upon entering the nursery, help your child to greet the adults on duty. Depending on your own child's interests and needs, you might like to get him/her settled with an activity. At check-in, keep your own time in the nursery as brief and businesslike as possible.

- ◆ Stay positive, assuring your child that s/he will have fun playing for a while in the nursery. If your child senses that you are relaxed and confident, s/he will feel safer and more confident and secure.
- ◆ As soon as your child is settled (or as soon in the direct care of a nursery staff member), give a quick kiss, promise to come back after the child has played for a bit, and say good-bye. *IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU SAY GOOD-BYE TO YOUR CHILD EVERY TIME YOU LEAVE.* It's tempting to leave while your child is distracted, but it increases anxiety and postpones adjustment to the nursery in the long run.
- ◆ Because your child loves you, it is normal for your child to cry as you leave. It will help your child to settle in more quickly if the child can count on you and staff to handle check-in and pick-up in a predictable manner.
- ◆ Relax and enjoy some quiet time during the service. Should a true emergency arise in the nursery, know that a staff member will come for you immediately. The nursery has been moved from far away to much closer to make sure this is easy to do.

### **Sanitation Standards**

We try to keep the nursery clean with these simple guidelines:

- ◆ Non-toxic cleaning supplies will be readily available to nursery workers, and stored well out of reach of children in the cupboards.
- ◆ A small broom-vac will be stored in the room closet for quick clean-ups or spills.
- ◆ Used diapers will be removed from the nursery and disposed of in adjacent bathrooms.
- ◆ Disinfectant hand cleaners will be available for care givers, and must be used immediately after diapering or toileting a child and prior to serving any food to children.
- ◆ A complete nursery clean-up, including sorting and washing all toys and equipment, will take place in fall and spring.

### **Food in the Nursery/Allergies**

Gold fish crackers are always available for snack in the Nursery. Food brought from home should be avoided, because of allergy concerns. Please label all sippy cups and bottles. If your child has any significant allergies, please inform the caregivers.

### **Committee to be established**

Volunteers are needed for a nursery committee of interested parents. The Nursery Committee will meet as needed with the Director of Religious Education to assess and update nursery policies, manage periodic nursery cleaning and improvements, assess volunteer needs as we grow, and generally articulate parent concerns.

Please contact Deacon Lori Mills-Curran, DRE, with any questions or concerns about the nursery.