



lake murray
baptist | children

Parents Guide



OUR VISION & MISSION

Lake Murray Children's Ministry exists to equip parents and children to grow together in the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Lake Murray Children's Ministry is designed to love, serve and teach children from birth to 5th grade while also equipping parents to disciple their children. We believe the primary environment where a child learns to follow Jesus is in the home, and it is our desire to support parents as they pursue this biblical model of disciple-making.

OUR VALUES

At Lake Murray Baptist Church, we expect our children to learn in a *safe, engaging, and Gospel-centered* environment.

Safe: All volunteers are screened before joining our Children's Ministry Team. We expect all team members to adhere to strict check-in and check-out, health, and security policies.

Engaging: We use developmentally appropriate curriculum that is varied in approach to help meet different learning styles. Our teachers enthusiastically present the Gospel each week so that children can better absorb the truths of the Bible.

Gospel-centered: We believe in teaching children the "big picture" of the Bible, showing how each individual story points to our need for Christ and His glorious promise of redemption for all who believe in His saving work on the cross.

OUR STAFF

- David Sons, Next Generation Pastor – dsons@lakemurraybaptist.org
- Emily Leake, Director of Children's Ministries - eleake@lakemurraybaptist.org
- Jordan Sims, Ministry Assistant – jsims@lakemurraybaptist.org

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OUR PROGRAMS

SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUNDAYS @
9:00 A.M.

INFANT – 6TH GRADE

All ages use The Gospel Project for Kids, a three year curriculum cycle that moves chronologically through the Bible. Through The Gospel Project® for Kids, our children come to understand the Bible is not just a collection of stories, but one unified story—God’s story of redemption.

KIDS’ WORSHIP
SUNDAYS @
10:30 A.M.

INFANT – 4 YRS. OLD

Preschoolers spend the worship hour interacting with caring volunteers who demonstrate the love of Jesus while engaging in free play, outdoor play (weather permitting), and hands-on structured activities. Our 3-4 year olds also use The Gospel Project’s Worship Hour curriculum to extend the Sunday School lesson with corresponding activities.

WED NIGHTS
WEDNESDAYS @
6:30 P.M.

INFANT. – 6TH GRADE

Mission Friends and Children in Action provide children with an opportunity to learn about missions, pray for missions, give to missions, and participate in missions. The Northstar Catechism provides a basic theological foundation through an engaging Q&A format that families practice at home, and children recite each week in class.

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WHAT TO EXPECT

The children's ministry at Lake Murray Baptist Church is a safe and loving environment where your child will receive excellent care. Each classroom is stocked with age-appropriate furniture, toys, and activities. Our volunteers come prepared to deliver engaging Bible lessons, sing, play, and assist your child in hands-on activities that reinforce the lesson.

We use *The Gospel Project for Kids* curriculum on Sunday mornings for ages 1+, and *Mission Friends/Children in Action* on Wednesday nights for ages 2+.

WHAT TO BRING

For infants/toddlers, please bring the following labeled items:

- 2-3 diapers and wipes.
- Pacifiers, lovies, or other comfort items.
- A complete change of clothes.
- A bottle/cup of formula, milk, juice, or water as appropriate.
- A jacket or coat when appropriate, as we go outside during the Kids' Worship hour when the weather permits.

We encourage elementary aged children to bring a Bible on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings so they can learn to look up passages and follow along with Scripture passages during their lessons.

CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT

Upon your first visit to LMBC, you will be asked to fill out a registration card as well as a visitor's name tag for your child. A matching parent tag will be provided for you to present at your child's classroom upon pickup. This ensures your child's safety while in our care.

Members of LMBC are entered into our electronic system and check in at an iPad station located in the children's building lobby. Stickers are printed for each child to wear on his/her back, as well as one for the parent to present upon pickup.

Parents should accompany their children to check in for all programs offered at LMBC. Older children may then go to their classroom as appropriate. Children ages infant through 2nd grade should be picked up by a parent/guardian from their classroom door (underage siblings should not be sent for pickup). 3rd through 5th graders may be dismissed by their teachers to meet parents in the children's building lobby or courtyard if agreed upon by both parents and the teacher.

Please keep your cell phone on vibrate while your child is in our care. If you are needed, we will text you. If you do not have a cell phone, please make alternate contact arrangements at the front desk upon check-in.

SNACKS

We provide snacks to children ages 12 months and up during the Sunday School hour on Sunday mornings, and in the nursery on Wednesday evenings. We strive to make our building a nut-free zone; gluten and dairy-free snacks are also available. Please alert both the Director of Children's Ministries and your child's teacher of any food allergies. If you do not wish for your child to partake of the snacks we offer, you are welcome to send an alternate food item, or request that your child refrain from eating altogether while in our care.

Infants will be given what their parents provide on their individual feeding schedule. Please give specific instructions to the classroom teacher upon check-in.

YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

We aim to provide the safest possible environment at LMBC. Therefore, we ask that you keep your child out of the nursery if they display any of the following symptoms within the past 24 hours:

- Fever
- Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea
- Flu symptoms
- Hand, Food, and Mouth disease or other rash/sores with fever

Children who have been on antibiotics for at least 24 hours, *and who have no fever* may attend our events if they feel well enough to do so. Children with mild cold and cough symptoms *and no fever* may also attend at the parents' discretion, as most colds are spread in the 1-3 days before children begin to show symptoms. For more information on our health policies, please refer to the SCDHEC School and Childcare Exclusion List, found at <http://www.scdhec.gov>.

Any toys that enter a child's mouth are placed in a bin to be sanitized according to DHEC regulations. Classroom tables, doorknobs, and floors are cleaned daily.

BEHAVIOR/DISCIPLINE

We strive to create a safe, loving, engaging environment that will minimize behavior issues. However, if a child is struggling to respect others or their surroundings, the teachers will follow the “3 Rs” –

- *Remind* the child of classroom expectations, and redirect as appropriate.
- *Removal* from the situation and/or classroom. If a child is removed from the classroom entirely, parents will be notified.
- *Restoration* between the teachers, child, and parents so the child can successfully rejoin the classroom environment. We expect all classroom teachers to demonstrate gentleness, forgiveness, and grace when administering any sort of discipline procedures.

NURSING ROOM

There is a private nursing room inside the infant classroom that is available during Sunday morning and Wednesday evening programs.

PROMOTION

Children ages 0-2 are transferred to the next class based on both age and development. One year olds should be walking steadily and able to participate in class activities (snack, walking to playground, etc.) before moving up. Two year olds should be able to participate in a short circle time and basic group activities (coloring, Play Doh, etc.) before moving up. We also consider “best fit” for each child based on class size and the developmental “culture” of the group (ie, a young one-year-old may not be promoted to a class with mostly older one-year-olds unless there is a need to balance out class sizes). Children ages 3-4 are placed and promoted according to their birthday (must be 3 or 4 by September 1st), and elementary children are promoted according to their academic grade level. Promotion Sunday occurs each August.

CONNECT WITH US!

We invite you to learn more about us and stay updated on our ministry.
Check us out on:



<http://lakemurraybc.org/ministries/kids/>



Lake Murray Baptist Church Children's Ministry

GET INVOLVED!

We have lots of opportunities for parents to get involved with our children's ministry. Members of LMBC who complete an application and background check, and are recommended by a pastor or staff member are eligible to serve. Please visit our Children's Ministry webpage - <http://lakemurraybc.org/ministries/kids/> - for more information!