

**VISION**

We, the Children’s Ministry, fully aligns itself with the Vision, Mission, and Values set by the FXCC leadership. Within these, we find a very specific vision for the Fairfax Children’s Ministry.

FXCC Overall:

**OUR VISION**

We will be God’s heart to this community. Connected to God, we will live beyond our abilities, fears and imaginations. With God’s power flowing through us, we commit to ...

• Deepen biblical understanding that increases spiritual maturity

• Honor God as the center of our worship and invite others into His presence

• Make the most of our unique location for local and far-reaching spiritual impact

• Provide a home for people seeking unconditional love, peace, belonging, and rest

• Reach out to diverse communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ

**OUR MISSION**

To boldly show Jesus, to love God, and to love others because God first loved us.

• The greatest truth: God loves us

• The greatest commands: Love God and others

• The great commission: Share the good news

**OUR VALUES**

The following values express our most passionate and unyielding priorities. They reflect our guiding commitments for vision implementation.

**Connecting with God**

• Honoring the Authority of Christ

• The Bible as the Inspired Word of God

• Worship that Pleases God

**Connecting with Christians**

• Loving Community

**Connecting with others**

• Joyful Service

**Children’s Ministry’s Vision:**

FXCC Children’s Ministry exists to partner with parents to help their kids Learn, Grow, and Share in a loving and age appropriate environment so that they can:

* *Learn* to uniquely serve others
* *Grow* in their personal relationship with Christ
* *Share* Christ to the world unashamedly

**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AND INVOLVEMENT**

**Chaperone Events**

We have various events throughout the year, SOS events (4th-6th grade), summer events, etc. Please help by signing up for specific events or by contacting us at the church office. We would love to talk with you about any details with chaperoning. There will be specific duties required by chaperones.

**Drive Church Van or Carpool**

We have need from time to time, usually SOS events (4th-6th graders), for individuals willing to drive the church van or their own vehicle to transport kids. If you are willing to help out in this, please let us know and we’ll keep your name on a running list.

**Teach Classes**

It takes a minimum of 41 people to keep Children’s Ministry running on a Sunday. Every Quarter, we need teachers for various classes. We have recently begun new system called Team Teaching. If you would like to know how to get involved with teaching OR helping, we would like to talk with you.

Teacher: The teacher in the class is the one who is presenting the lesson to the kids, prepping class materials, etc. unless otherwise arranged.

Helper: The helper assists the teacher in the classroom. Passing out materials, assisting the kids, and classroom management are what a helper is responsible for.

**Curriculum:**

**Nursery**

The nursery uses the Palma Smiley curriculum. The concept is repetition because that is how babies best learn. The babies are moved up through the different classes based on their developmental level.

* The Seedlings and Spuds classes focus on the world around them. They learn things such as God made trees, birds, rain, and them.
* The Flowers have 4 lessons that rotate through. They focus on four big lessons from the Bible: Noah, Abraham, Baby Jesus, and

**Preschool**

* We use Gospel Light’s preschool curriculum that rotates through the entire Bible every 2 years.
* In the Green through 6th grade, we use Group’s FaithWeaver curriculum that also rotates through Bible stories in a 2 year cycle.

**Kid’s Worship**

Both Tiny Tots and Kid’s Worship are designed to best suit the spiritual needs of the kids for their age. Both introduce the Bible lesson to be taught in class that day, to allow the story to be learned to its fullest potential.

**DIFFERENCES**

**New Computer System**

Members are now able to check their children in on the computers using their Key FOB, their last name, and their phone numbers.

Due to this, we are making our Check-In Desk for ***guests only***. This includes if children come back without their parents when dismissed for Kid’s Worship to get a nametag. If they cannot get one on their own at the computer kiosk, we’ll send them back to you to come help them get their tag.

Thank you in advance for you help.

**Nursery to Preschool**

Starting in preschool (Pinks class), the kids are in the preschool hallway downstairs. Parents are **ONLY** allowed down the hallway to drop off their kids. When it is time to pick up, please allow for the Guardian Angel, Erin, or Logan to get them from their class to return to you. This helps both with traffic and safety. It helps to ensure that someone who shouldn’t be down the hallway does not get to slip by due to chaos.

**Preschool to Upstairs**

Once the kids have reached the Green class, they go upstairs. The same pick-up rules apply, with the exception of 4th, 5th, and 6th grades.

Our SOS age kids (4th-6th grade) are allowed to leave once dismissed by their teachers at 11:35. They are on their own once they are dismissed. Please talk with child and arrange for a place to meet up after class.

**MISSION EFFORTS**

* Dominican Republic
	+ The Children’s Ministry supports Randy at the Manna Christian School in the DR. Children’s Offerings go to this every month.
* New SOS service projects (4th-6th graders)
	+ Packages for missionaries
	+ Joining in with our Church family to assist in the Christmas service project
	+ Kid’s Choice service project in March
* Working to partner with other areas of the church for added service opportunities
	+ Backpack foods
	+ Least of These
	+ Giveaway

**YEARLY EVENTS**

* Fall Party
	+ On the last Wednesday of October, the kids are allowed to dress up and we play fall games and go trick-or-treating through the hall.
* Christmas Party
	+ On the last Wednesday of our Fall Family Series, we host a Family Christmas party. Games and activities for all during this evening.
* Easter Egg Hunt
	+ Easter Sunday after Bible class, we have an Easter egg hunt for the younger kids, and one for the older kids. The 4th-6th graders get to participate in a scavenger hunt.
* SOS Lock-In (4th-6th grade)
	+ On a Friday night during August, the SOS group has a lock-in at the church for some bonding time.
* Summer Activities
	+ Range from movies to water day. This will be various days throughout the summer for all different age groups.
* FXCC Camp
	+ A way for our Fairfax kids and the group of people they influence to join in on a week devoted to diving deeper in to God’s word and reaching out to our community. Geared to our rising K-4th graders. 5th, 6th will be able to be Jr. Staff.

**EXPECTATIONS**

We will provide a Christian peer group. We make every effort to provide an environment where spiritual growth and fellowship can occur in the midst of Christian friendships.

**RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS**

While on any CM activity, the Children’s Ministry will take the responsibility of the children in our care. We take that responsibility very seriously while they are under our supervision. However, responsibility of children during worship service, before and after classes, in the church parking lot, at home, etc. lies in the hands of parents. When any child’s actions are brought to our attention during these times, we will direct those comments to you, as parents.

This includes in Kingdom Korner. Beginning this year, no child is allowed in KK without an adult fully in the room with them (not an older sibling).

We are also enforcing a “no running” policy for the entire building on Sundays and Wednesdays, no matter the time. We ask that parents please keep their kids from running because it has become an increasing hazard for members and guests.

**SUPPORT**

We ask you to help and support this ministry. If there is something that we do that you do not agree with, please come to us personally and share it with us so that we can grow and learn together. You can be assured that we are supporting you, and we will also come to you with disagreements that may arise.

**RESPONSIBILITY OF SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT**

Parents are the number one influence in a child’s life. You bear the primary responsibility for spiritual growth in your child. There is little we can do to replace the training and instruction of a Godly parent (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). We hope to come along side you, support you, and supplement the Biblical training you are already providing your child.

**INVOLVEMENT**

The Children’s Ministry ***NEEDS*** your help. Please make every effort to be involved in this ministry for your child and all the other families in this ministry. We are not perfect and we definitely do not have all the answers. But the Children’s Ministry and parents work together as a team, we feel confident that God will use us all as instruments in helping our kids grow in the Lord. ***Please make sure to find ways to get involved.*** We have jobs for all skill sets and experience level- just ask us where you are needed.

**FEEDBACK**

Please provide us with any feedback that could be beneficial to us and this ministry as a whole. Let us know of special needs and prayer requests for your child and your family.

**PUNCTUALITY**

It is important when working with a group this size we start on time. We will always communicate a time of departure and arrival. This is to help both you as parents and us as the ministers/leaders. If your child is late, they may find that we have already moved on to the next activity or location. We do not wish to leave anyone behind, but we also have reasons for leaving at a designated time. We need your help in this. We also commit to you to be on time ourselves. We will be early to meet the kids and we will make every effort to arrive back at the designated time. If, for some unseen reason, we will not make it back at the designated time, we will communicate to you through email, text, or have your child contact you. That is the easiest way to communicate to you while on trips.

ADDITIONAL NOTE: After events, ***and class***, we have adult leaders and teachers who need to pick up their own children and are ready to go home. Please make sure to be prompt when picking up your child. This means that if your Bible class goes over, you are still responsible for picking up your children at 11:35 (or 8:00pm for Wednesday nights).

We will not bring your your child to you. We ask that you respect both Logan & Erin’s time, along with their family’s time as well and pick up your child(ren) promptly.

**RESPONSIBILITY OF CHILDREN**

We expect every child to take responsibility for his/her own actions, and to come to Bible class with their Bible ready to learn.

**RESPECT**

We expect each child to cooperate and respect all adults and adult leaders.

* We expect each child to respect their peers by lifting each other up rather than tearing them down.
* We expect each child to respect the property of others, the church building, and the areas and property of any place we may be visiting.

**PARTICIPATION**

When your children are participating in events, whether it be class, during worship, or an activity, we expect for them to be fully engaged. Please talk with them how this will increase their excitement and help others to participant to their fullest potential as well.

**GUIDELINES**

Guidelines are to help maintain the group and shine as Christian examples out of love for God. The following are rules & guidelines that we will abide by in everything we do, in order to minimize conflicts among the group and maximize spiritual growth. Most of these are common sense Christian guidelines.

* No drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, fireworks, weapons, pornographic material or anything of the sort will be allowed during ANY event.
* Prescription and non-prescription medicines should be discussed between a parent and appropriate adult leader attending the event. Instructions in writing are always preferred.
* No disruptive behavior is allowed. That includes, but is not limited to hitting, biting, spitting, fighting, cussing, vandalism, pranks, disrespect of authority, etc. both in the classroom or during an activity.
* Clothing should be modest.
* While in classes, meetings, or any other type of class, we expect children to behave appropriately and with respect. In the case where a child chooses not to follow this guideline, we will accompany them to their parents’ class or ask a parent to attend class with their child.
* We encourage parents not to use the withholding of church activities as a means of punishment. We feel that this sends the wrong message to the child. We do understand that it may be the only measure of discipline at the time and we will always respect your judgment in this area.
* In extreme cases, we will involve our shepherds in the process of discipline and for guidance and prayers.

**REGISTRATION PROCEDURES**

Registration procedures are always something that families question. How do I register? When and how do I pay? These are the questions we would like to answer for you.

We always consider registration and expenses when planning events. We realize funds are limited in families and there are many things that require funds in school and elsewhere. Therefore, we make every effort to make the cost of our youth events and trips as minimal as possible. Please also realize that the Children’s Ministry Budget will always supplement the funds required from you. All our events are “non-profit” events. We would like to also convey that ***MONEY SHOULD NEVER BE A DETERENT FOR A CHILD’S SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND ATTENDANCE TO AN EVENT!!!*** We are blessed with built-in funds and contributors to help in this. Having said this, there are some procedures that must be followed registering for events:

- We ask that parents *RSVP yes or no*, or register either online or via email to Logan Dennis.

- We ask that you not RSVP or give money to Logan or Erin in the middle of Sunday Morning or Wednesday night class or worship hours.

We will make every effort to help children and our families out with these matters. We understand there are particular or unusual circumstances. We want to help you out in any way. All we ask is that you contact us, and work it out with us personally so that we can be involved in the process. Always let us know of anything we can do to enhance these procedures to help you out as a family.

**SAFETY PROCEDURES**

GUARDIAN ANGELS

These people, usually dads, are stationed at the front of both the preschool and upstairs hallways. They are there to ensure that someone who should not be down the hallway isn’t (i.e. a non-parent), and also helps in the congestion issue when students are being dismissed. Please do not be offended if you are a parent and the Guardian Angel asks you to not go down the hallway. We have realized that the best way to prevent ANY issue of someone getting through that shouldn’t (EVEN IF WE KNOW YOU) is to apply the policy to everyone. That way, no one is singled out and the safety of the kids is not compromised due to leniency.

Erin handles the Guardian Angel schedule. If you have any questions, please email her.

**IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY**

If there is ever a fire or another emergency, ***DO NOT COME TO CLASS TO GET YOUR KIDS.*** The teachers along with Erin and Logan will ensure that they are outside and we will reunite you with them at that time.

**PLEASE** understand that we do this to lessen the chaos and confusion. Our teachers need to be able to focus on getting their entire class to safety. Parents trying to pick up children in the midst causes confusion and as a result a child could be misplaced.

**BATHROOMS**

You may have noticed that we are making the bathrooms “Kids Only” restrooms both downstairs in the preschool hallway and upstairs in the bathrooms by the children’s classes. This is to keep our kids safe. In the preschool hallway, one of the restrooms connects with a classroom, which means there is a door open, children needing help using the restroom, etc. For our upstairs bathrooms, most of our kids are old enough to go to the restroom by themselves. We want it to be safe with only children in the restroom. This is to help protect both the children *and* the adults from a bad situation.

We do not anticipate anything happening, but we must take precautions and make the safety of our kids our number one priority.

* Downstairs
	+ Only kids, or parents who are assisting a child with an accident are allowed in the downstairs preschool bathrooms.
* Upstairs
	+ Only kids and adult teachers or helpers assisting a younger child are allowed in the upstairs children’s ministry bathrooms.

**2 ADULTS RULE**

2 adults are in all every classroom. This is to help with safety, that no child is left alone with an adult, as well as to provide an extra set of hands.

**BACKGROUND CHECKS**

We will be starting the process of background checking all those involved in Children’s Ministry very soon. Please be looking for information in the upcoming weeks.