

Central Seventh-day Adventist Church

Job Description: Children's Church

The Bible makes it clear that children are very special to God. As disciples of Christ we are to instill an exciting faith in our children. It is our responsibility to help them develop into strong spiritual leaders of the future.

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus took time to minister to the children. Both Scripture and the pen of inspiration indicate very clearly the value that He placed on them. His ministry to them included:

He blessed and prayed for the children. When mothers brought their children to Jesus, He placed His hands on them and blessed them and prayed for them. (Matthew 19:14)

Jesus affirmed the children. He declared affirmatively that the kingdom of heaven belongs to children. Anyone who does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter in. (Mark 10:15)

Jesus befriended the children. Jesus enjoyed the little things that they did. E. G. White writes: "As the children gathered the wildflowers so abundantly around them, and crowded up to present to Him their offering, He received them gladly, smiled upon them, and expressed His joy at seeing so many varieties of flowers." –Upward Look, pg 57

Jesus participated with the children. E. G. White writes: "Christ watched children at their play and often expressed His approval when they gained an innocent victory over something they were determined to do. He sang to children in sweet and blessed words. They knew that He loved them. He never frowned on them. He shared their childish joys and sorrow. –Upward Look pg 57

Children's church is a church service for children from the ages of 6 weeks to 12 years. It begins when the adult church service begins. Children's church will be scheduled according to the needs of the church, varying from once a month to twice a month. Children's church incorporates all the elements of regular worship such as praise, prayer, sharing or testimony, studying the Word, a children's sermon, and drama or skits that apply the Word to everyday life. Children will be given opportunities to participate in worship, helping them to understand the elements of worship.

Mission

The mission of Children's Church is to nurture children into a loving, serving relationship with Jesus by developing:

Grace oriented ministries, in which all children will experience the unconditional love of Jesus, find assurance of acceptance and forgiveness, and make a commitment to Him.

Service oriented ministries, in which children are given opportunity for hands on service in the church, their neighborhood and city, establishing a pattern of outreach to others that may well continue through life.

Safe ministries, whereby all volunteers

- Will have completed the Shield the Vulnerable Training along with a background check
- Have high spiritual and moral backgrounds

Evangelistic ministries, in which children who are not enfolded into the church will be introduced to the love of Jesus through outreach programs such as Vacation Bible School, Neighborhood Bible Clubs and Story Hour.

Duties of the Children's Church Ministry:

1. To plan and implement a yearly calendar of programs for children that will draw them to Christ and provide for their participation in all church activities.
2. To develop a budget for implementing all programs and activities for children.
3. To serve as an advocate for the interests and needs of children to the:
 - Church Board - by keeping board members informed on concerns and successes, by reporting the results of children's needs assessment and by encouraging funding for children's programs.
 - Pastor – by working together to make the various aspects of church life and worship more child-friendly and meaningful to children.
 - Leaders of children's activities – by supporting and encouraging them.
4. To take reasonable steps to maintain a high moral and ethical quality of leadership for the children by screening volunteer leaders and teachers.
5. To maintain communication with parents and leaders of children's activities.
6. To seek opportunities to spend time with children in order to stay in touch with their thinking and their needs.
7. To work with the pastor in events involving children, such as
 - Baptism
 - Children's story during Worship Service
 - Junior deacons/deaconess