

## Children's Ministry Policy

### **Purpose Statement**

The purpose of children's ministry is that each child will hear of how God loves them and be given opportunities to respond to Him. They will receive sound Biblical teaching and be provided with activities that help them to apply what they learn to their lives. These activities will take place in a safe environment. They will be supported in expressing their faith and serving others in the wider church family. The child's family will be encouraged and supported in their child's faith journey.

### **Vision**

*Our vision for Children's Ministry is to provide a safe environment  
Where children can hear about and respond to God's love.*

### **We will work towards our vision by providing**

- A safe environment
- Age appropriate activities and teaching
- Appropriate care of children according to the situation
- Appropriate selection of and training of leaders

### **Children's Leaders Requirements:**

#### **Adult Leaders will:**

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Have made a commitment to Jesus Christ
- Be committed to the church family
- Be committed to the WBC vision for Children's Ministry
- Have read 'The Baptist Churches of South Australia (BCSA) Code of Ethics', and completed the Ministry Agreement form
- Have read the BCSA Child Protection Policy
- Agree to be bound by any procedures and policies of WBC
- Have an up-to-date Police Check (every 2 years)
- Complete recommended BCSA Child Protection Training Program Training Tier 2 (i.e. Mandatory Notification Training) every 2 years
- Complete an Application form and interview with the Children's Ministry Team Leader
- Be approved by the Children's Ministry Team Leader and the Eldership
- Be accountable to the Children's Ministry Team Leader
- Be aware of and supported in their own motional, mental, physical and spiritual health
- Minister as part of a team and attend team meetings and training opportunities

#### **Junior Leaders will:**

- Be in at least Year 8
- Have made a commitment to Jesus Christ
- Be committed to the church family
- Be committed to the WBC vision for Children's Ministry
- Be accountable to the Adult Leader they are working with
- Be accountable to the Children's Ministry Team Leader
- Complete an Application form and Interview with the Children's Ministry Team Leader
- Agree to be bound by any procedures and policies of WBC
- Be approved by the Children's Ministry Team Leader and the Eldership

## Procedures for Children's Ministry

### Conduct with Children:

#### Leaders will:

- Ensure that there are at least two leaders, one of them an adult, in the room at all times
- Ensure children are supervised at all times, until collected by parents / caregivers or taken to them
- Ensure that the parents of children needing assistance with toileting will be called upon, while older children will toilet themselves, as recommended by BCSA
- Ensure BCSA ratios for adult: child are adhered to
- Ensure physical contact is appropriate. i.e not touching children in areas that would normally be covered by bathers
- Ensure permission forms have been completed by parents/caregivers, for children regularly attending Children's Ministry Programs
- Give all permission forms / written information regarding children to the Children's Ministry Team Leader, who will store all records in a locked filing cabinet
- Be prepared for each session that they are involved in, arriving at church in good time.
- Join in with Pre-Service Prayer at 9:45am when rostered on
- Wear suitable clothing when rostered on (i.e for sitting on carpet with children, playing games)

### Duty of Care:

- All leaders and assistants will wear a name tag when rostered on
- Parents or carers who wish to stay to settle a child must wear a Visitor badge and not be left to supervise other children
- Children wear nametags when attending ministry
- Children are signed in and out of all ministry areas
- Nappy changing is done only by parents / caregivers (not by Crèche workers)
- The physical environment is safe within SABU and OHS&W guidelines
- Children wear hats and sunscreen when involved in outside activities
- First Aid kit is available and accessible
- Any suspected or known abuse or neglect be reported to the Children's Ministry Team Leader or Elders and also to Child Abuse Report Line (131 478) as soon as possible
- Any incidents, accidents or near misses be reported to Children's Ministry Team Leader and recorded on WBC Proforma

### Behaviour Management:

#### Expectations of children:

- Listen to and respect leaders
- Follow instructions of leaders
- Respect each other
- Respect property

#### Consequences:

1. Child will be asked to stop inappropriate behaviour
2. Child will be asked to sit out from group.
3. A leader will talk with them about appropriate behaviour before they re-enter the group
4. If the behaviour continues, parents will be asked to collect the child

### Reporting incidents of abuse:

- Any incidences (or suspected incidences) of Child Abuse or Neglect MUST be reported to Child Abuse Report Line (131 478) as soon as possible
- An Incident Report form must be filled in
- The Pastors/Elders must be made aware of any Report ASAP
- The Pastors/Elders will inform the SABU Director of Professional Standards
- The Senior Pastor is the only person authorised by the WBC to speak to the media about any abuse/neglect issues