**Children’s Church General Information**

**Purpose Statement:** Colonial Hills Children’s Church exists to provide an opportunity for young people to experience a worship service atmosphere in a fun, fast-paced, and learning environment that seeks to prepare them for the adult service and ultimately teach them God’s Word.

Children’s Church is held in a formal group setting with hymns and Bible teaching like an adult service. Exciting items are added such as action songs, sword drills, and application/missionary stories to keep the children involved and interacting.

**Curriculum: *It’s Grow Time***

* + This curriculum uses a three-year through-the-Bible scope and sequence with younger and older options to fit to each class. The Bible timeline is conveyed in both practice and age-appropriate ways so that children will understand the reality of the Bible accounts and be challenged to apply them to their lives.
  + This curriculum is straight forward and simple to teach and prepare. It provides various ideas to help apply each lesson to the children in the class.

**Application/Missionary Story**

* The application/missionary stories mostly come from Bible Visuals International and Child Evangelism Fellowship.
* Each month there is an application/missionary story to be taught. These are often five weeks long so on four week months it is important to tweak the lessons in order to finish them within the month. Feel free to cut out parts that are not as important if that is needed to complete the story in four weeks.
* If you ever find an application/missionary story that you are uncomfortable with or that you feel should not be used again, please communicate that.

**Atmosphere**

* Two Children’s Church classes (K-5&1 and 2nd to 4th) are held. This increases the worship service atmosphere.
* In order to effectively prepare children for the regular church service the Children’s Church set up is in rows.

**Consistent Schedule**

Every Children’s Church teacher follows roughly the same schedule week by weak. This provides consistency and may help with discipline problems for the students. The schedule is designed to encourage a worship service atmosphere:

* + Monthly Song Practice 10 min.
  + Welcome, Review Rules, Pray 5 min.
  + Missionary Story 10 min.
  + Sing (if possible, 2 songs) 3-5 min.
  + Bible Lesson 10-15 min.
  + Closing Game Until pick-up

**Teachers**

Two teachers work together each month. One teacher teaches the Bible lesson, and the other teacher teaches the missionary/application story. Teachers are responsible to coordinate with each other on what aspects they are running (i.e. who is teaching the lesson, who is teaching the missionary story, who is leading in songs, etc.).

**Children’s Church Choir**

* + Lisa Achenbach comes in at the beginning of children’s church for about ten minutes to lead the children in their song of the month. K—4th graders all meet together in the Taylor Chapel for this rehearsal and then K&1 graders are dismissed to B2 for their class.
  + The children’s church choir typically sings once a month on Sunday evening. Once every quarter they sing on Sunday morning.

**Review Games**

* If you finish before the main service lets out, which is very likely, use the remaining time for a review game. This is a great way to reinforce the main point of the lesson while giving the students a chance to get out some pent up energy.
* Suggestions
  + Sword drills
  + Powerpoint games (see Pastor Ben)
  + Bible trivia

**The 5th Sunday**

* Because the curriculum is written for a four-week rotation the 5th Sunday is a little different.
* Please use the fifth Sunday as a time to review information from the previous four weeks. Please do not start going into the next unit since that will begin the next month.

**Receiving and Returning Curriculum**

* + Sharon Phelps gives teachers their curriculum two weeks before they are scheduled to teach. This provides teachers with enough time to prepare.
  + Teachers are to return their curriculum to Sharon Phelps as soon as they are finished with it by handing it to her or leaving it at the Welcome Desk.
  + Curriculum is expensive and will be reused so teachers are responsible to replace any curriculum that is damaged or misplaced.