



Behavioral & Safety Guidelines

As we try to provide a safe and fun environment that is conducive to learning and growth, we ask that all caregivers and children follow our behavioral and safety guidelines when they participate in any Children & Family Ministry programs at Heart of Longmont, First United Methodist Church.

Behavior

1. I will listen.

Listening is the foundation for all of our guidelines. We believe it is important that children know the value of listening. Through listening, learning, safety, respect, participation, and FUN can all successfully follow.

2. I will learn.

No matter what age or learning level of children, learning is a primary goal of our Children & Family Ministry. We want children to anticipate that activities and programs are intended to teach them and help them grow in their spiritual development.

3. I will stay safe.

This statement puts responsibility on children to make choices that protect themselves and others. We take time to discuss unsafe behaviors in our area, and agree we will not do those things, nor will we do anything else that does not seem to be safe.

4. I will show respect.

Our aim is to create ongoing discussion about respect so that children develop understanding of what is expected and feel empowered to be respectful. This positive statement sets the tone for a respectful attitude.

5. I will participate.

No matter the activity, participation means being involved in the appropriate ways at the appropriate times. This statement sets up the children to know they should participate. When they do, it leads to everyone's favorite guideline...

6. I will have FUN!

This statement lets children know that there is a real benefit to following all of the other guidelines. We want them to enjoy the fun that will be part of all we do through our Children & Family Ministry. It is everyone's invitation to experience it fully!

Safety

- Children should be signed in for all programs.
 - This helps the child's teacher find a parent in a timely manner in case of emergency.
 - An emergency phone number must be left on the sign in sheet.
 - The sign in sheet also serves as the checklist to be used in case an evacuation is necessary.
- Children (babies through grade 5) must be picked up and signed out at the end of the session by a caregiver or the adult who brought them.
 - Siblings may not pick up a child.
- To minimize disruption, caregivers are advised to accompany their children to the restroom before or after any programs.
- Children will not be allowed to leave the classroom alone during any children's ministry program or during worship service.
 - Because the general public has access to the building when it is unlocked, our church should be considered a public building.
- Sunday a.m. sessions are "no food zones."
 - Because of food allergies and the limited amount of time, food will not be served or eaten during this time.
 - If food is served on special occasions, parents will be notified ahead of time.

If you have questions or concerns about these guidelines, please contact the Director of Children & Family Ministry at cfm@heartoflongmont.org.