



## Sunday Morning FAQs

Dear Parents,

We warmly welcome your family to our Sunday morning Kids QUEST program at Parkside Church. We know that you may have questions about what your child does while in class, so we have prepared this FAQ. If you have additional questions, please feel free to talk to one of your child's teachers or call the church office for more information.

### Our Purpose...

**What is the purpose of Kids QUEST?** Our Sunday morning Kids QUEST ministry desires to see *unbelieving children become committed followers of Jesus Christ*. We seek to come alongside parents, the primary teachers in their children's lives, and help children understand who Jesus is and how they can have a personal relationship with Him.

**What does Kids QUEST stand for?** We have developed the acronym "QUEST" to help frame our purpose:

- Q**uality time in God's Word
- U**nderstanding Biblical principles for living
- E**ncouraging Biblical worship
- S**trengthening Christian relationships
- T**elling others the Good News

### Staffing Information...

**Who are the people serving in my child's class?** Workers are volunteers from Parkside Church. Classroom teachers are Parkside Church members; classroom helpers must be regular attendees of Parkside Church for a minimum of six months before serving.

**How often do workers serve?** Because we believe that consistency plays a vital role in building relationships with children and helping them become committed followers of Jesus, workers are asked to serve each Sunday for one year, September-July, during either the 9:45 or 11:15 service. We recognize that this is a significant commitment, and in order to allow workers needed flexibility, we develop teams for each room. We also rely on parents to help us keep rooms well-staffed, especially on Sundays when we have limited staffing due to illness or other factors.

**How many people serve in my child's class?** We have a minimum of 2 adults in every classroom. For younger preschool children, we usually have teams with 3-4 adults and perhaps 1-2 teen helpers. As children get older, we have 2-3 adults on each team.

### Security Information...

**Do you have any security procedures in place?** We take the security of children very seriously at Parkside Church. In all of our Kids QUEST classrooms, we follow a two-adult rule that states no adult should ever be alone with a child. This may mean that parents are occasionally asked to stay in the classroom to assist on days when not enough workers are in attendance. We also ask that all workers 18+ years of age complete a background check as well as provide an application that gives details of their faith in Christ, their prior

ministry experience, and prior experience working with children. We also utilize a digital check-in system for all children (see “Coming and Going”).

### Coming and Going...

**Do I need to register my child?** All children must be registered when they begin regularly attending so that they can be checked into classrooms and so we have accurate contact and allergy information for each child. Registration cards are available at our Visitors’ Information desk on the main floor of the children’s wing and digital registration is available on our website.

**What time should I bring my child to class?** For the 9am service, most classroom workers arrive by 8:40am, so children are welcome to arrive any time after that. For the 10:30am service, we begin receiving children any time after 10:15am. We encourage parents to bring their children to class on time. It is helpful to children when they consistently arrive on time and are able to participate in all the group activities.

### **What do I do when I bring my child to Parkside Church?**

- **Stop at one of the six kiosks to check in.** If you have not yet registered your child, stop at the Children's Wing information desk for assistance. At check in, a nametag and parent receipt will print for each child you check in. Children under 3 should wear the nametag on their backs; children older than 3 should affix the tags on the front of their shirts or dresses. The nametag and parent receipt have matching paging/pickup numbers. ***Do not lose the parent receipt. You will need to show this to have your child released from class.***
- After checking in at a kiosk, proceed to the child’s classroom (classroom locations print on nametags).
- A teacher will ask if the parent’s location will be anywhere other than worship; if yes, a note will be written on your child’s nametag. Also, allergies may be noted, if needed.

### **What do I do when I pick my child up from class?**

- **For all children 2 years old-3<sup>rd</sup> grade, a parent must come to the classroom to release the child.** You will be asked to provide your parent receipt so that workers can verify the pick-up number matches your child’s nametag. If the receipt is lost, your child will only be released with a pastor’s or elder’s approval. Your help and consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated. Workers can only release one child at a time, so we ask for your patience at pick-up, especially during the transition time between the two morning services. Please do not reach over the counter, come into the classroom, or remove your child on your own.
- **If your child is in grades 4-5,** he/she may be released on his/her own but only if you have authorized this in advance. Forms are available in the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms.

### During Class...

**What happens in a typical Kids QUEST class?** There is a welcome/arrival time that offers free-play for children; this is a great time for children to build friendships with other children. Our classrooms usually have a weekly time of worship, either in their individual rooms or combined with other ages. There is a weekly Bible lesson that helps the children understand God’s Word at age-appropriate levels. There are crafts and games that help to apply the Bible truths the children are learning as well as Bible memory verses. In preschool rooms, we offer a simply snack each week (water with animal crackers, goldfish, club crackers, or vanilla wafers).

**What do I do if my child has allergies?** Please make sure your child is registered so that we can note this in our database. When you drop your child off in class, mention that he/she has allergies and a “red allergy” sticker will be attached to his/her nametag. If your child requires a special snack, we ask that you provide one each week, keeping in mind that our snack times are usually only 5-10 minutes long, so snacks should be simple.

**How can parents make Sunday mornings more meaningful for their children?**

- Arrive on time so that children can build friendships with other children and connect with their teachers.
- Take time to talk to your child’s classroom teachers—ask questions about the lessons, volunteer in the classroom occasionally.
- We encourage parents to utilize the “Take Home” papers to discuss what children are learning in class and to reinforce the truths that are being taught.
- Connect with other families in your child’s class--ask your child the names of friends and talk to the teacher about how to contact those families.

*We hope that this FAQ has been helpful to you. It is a privilege to serve Christ by teaching these children each week, and we pray that many children will come to know Christ as their personal Savior at young ages through our Kids QUEST ministry. Again, if we can answer any other questions or help your family get connected in meaningful ways at Parkside Church, please contact the church office.*