



We welcome your child to Children's Ministry at Parkside Church! You may have questions about what your child does while in class, and so we have prepared this FAQ. If you have additional questions, please feel free to talk to one of our Children's Ministry volunteers or call the church office for more information.

### [Our Purpose](#)

**What is the purpose of Children's Ministry at Parkside Church?** Our desire is to see *unbelieving children become committed followers of Jesus Christ*. We seek to come alongside parents, the primary teachers in children's lives, to help children understand who Jesus is and how they can have a personal relationship with Him. We do this in two primary ministries: Sunday School (AM Kids QUEST) and Mission Kids (PM).

**What does Kids QUEST stand for?** We developed the acronym "QUEST" to help frame our purpose for our Sunday morning children's ministry:

- 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

**What do the three symbols above the Mission Kids logo mean?** At Mission Kids we desire children would come to know and love Jesus (book symbol) & go and tell others (boot symbol). The symbol in the middle represents the world--that everyone needs to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

### [Staffing, Security & Safety Information](#)

**Who are the people serving with my child?** Workers are volunteers from Parkside Church. Teachers are Parkside Church members; helpers must be regular attendees of Parkside Church for a minimum of six months before serving.

**Do you have any security procedures in place?** We take the security of children very seriously at Parkside Church. In all of our Children's Ministries, 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 a room to assist on days when not enough workers are in attendance. We ask that all workers 18+ years of age complete an application & background check in order to serve. Student helpers (ages 13-18 are asked to complete a volunteer application and should confirm parent approval or provide a Parkside adult reference. We also utilize a digital check-in system for children (see "Coming and Going" below).

**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, Kids QUEST volunteers are asked to serve each Sunday for one year, September-July, during either the 9:00 or 10:30 service. Our Mission Kids workers serve every four weeks, on four teams, September-July. We recognize that this is a significant commitment, and in order to allow workers needed flexibility, we develop teams for each ministry.

**How many people serve in my child's class?** We have a minimum of 2 adults in every classroom or large group. 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.

**What do I do if my child has allergies?** Please ensure 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 sticker will be attached to your child's 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.

### [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. **We must have accurate contact and allergy information for each child; a parent cellphone is required so we can text if your child needs assistance.** Registration cards are available at our Children's Wing information desk.

**What time should I bring my child to class?** For the 9:00am service, most classroom workers arrive at 8:40am, so children are welcome to arrive any time after that. For the 10:30am service, we begin receiving children any time after 10:10am. **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. For our 6pm evening service, children may arrive any time after 5:45pm.

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

- **Stop at one of the six kiosks to get checked 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. If the receipt is lost, a parent must show identification to verify release.***
- Nursery-age children will receive 2 nametags. One tag goes on the child's back; the other tag is given to a nursery worker and affixed to the check-in clipboard in the room.
- After checking in at a kiosk, proceed to the child's room, listed on the nametag.
- Keep your cellphone on (silenced) and **VISIBLE** to you during service so you can see a text if your child needs assistance.

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

- **All children 2 years old-3<sup>rd</sup> grade must be picked up by a parent or guardian.** You will be asked to provide your parent receipt so that workers can verify the number matches your child's nametag. If the receipt is lost, your child will only be released with a pastor's, elder's, or Children's Ministry staff approval, and a photo identification will be required. 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 9:00 & 10:30 am services. Please do not reach over the counter, come into the classroom, or remove your child on your own.
- **For children in grades 4-5,** they may be released on their 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 and must be signed EACH year.

## During Service

**What happens in a typical Kids QUEST class?** There is usually 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 typically have a 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 to help apply the Bible truths the children are learning. Children memorize Bible verses; each classroom teacher has the option of selecting verses that match the curriculum and may choose to focus on one verse/month or one verse/week. In younger classrooms, we offer a simple snack each week (water, animal/goldfish/graham crackers or vanilla wafers).

**What happens at Mission Kids?** We have large group assembly time for worship and prayer and then break down into age divisions with small group time for Bible teaching, memory verse recitation and application/games.

### **What curriculum is being used for children?**

- Kids QUEST, 9:00am & 10:30am: *Show Me Jesus*, published by Great Commission Publications
- Mission Kids, 6:00pm: *The Gospel Project*

### **How can parents make Sundays more meaningful for their children?**

- Arrive on time so 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 when substitutes are needed.
- Utilize "Take Home" papers to discuss what children are learning and to reinforce Bible truths.
- Find out what the memory verse is each month (or each unit) and work on it at home.
- 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. 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 Children's Ministry. If we can answer any other questions or help your family get connected in meaningful ways at Parkside Church, please let us know. Email us at [children@parksidechurch.com](mailto:children@parksidechurch.com) or call the church office.*