

# Welcome to the Nursery!

We hope this brochure will answer many of the questions you may have about St. Matthew's nursery. We provide a safe, caring, Christian environment for your child during his/her visits. Our purpose is to provide excellent care for children while giving parents the opportunity to fully participate in worship or other church events. If you have any questions or concerns not addressed here, please contact either the nursery coordinator or the director of children, youth, and family.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you and your child.

**Nursery Coordinator**

**Mary Henson**

**mary.charlee@gmail.com**

**Director of Children, Youth, & Family**

**Nicole VanderMeulen**

**nicole.vander@comcast.net**

**425.226.2420**

## Tears!?!?

The nursery caregivers are extremely experienced when it comes to comforting crying babies and toddlers. Rest assured that you will always be contacted immediately if your child has cried for more than ten minutes or is upset beyond our ability to calm them.

While you are always free to check on your child, keep in mind that repeatedly coming in and out or standing at the door or windows will often upset your child and others. There is a one way mirror in the classroom just beyond the nursery that provides a safe place to check in on your child.

## Welcome to play...or STAY!

*The professional SMLC nursery staff are certainly eager to care for your child, but we want you to know you that we love when little ones stay in worship too! You should always feel welcome to keep your children with you.*

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

**1700 Edmonds Ave. NE**

**Renton, WA 98056**

**425.226.2420**

**WWW.SMLC.CC**

# NURSERY

s a i n t m a t t h e w s

*a guide for parents  
of babies and toddlers*

## Our Staff

Our nursery caregivers are paid, professional and experienced childcare providers that have passed a Washington State Patrol background check and have CPR and first aid certification.

## Pick Up and Drop Off Procedures

Please provide complete information on the sign-in sheet at the front counter when leaving your child in the nursery and plan to remain in the church building. Sign-out by noting the time you pick-up your child.

## Food & Allergies

Snacks and water are sometimes offered to toddlers in the nursery. Be sure to note allergies on the sign in sheet and always be sure to verbally explain special feeding instructions to the staff.

## Age Appropriateness

To keep the nursery safe, we are happy to offer care for children under the age of three. Sunday School starts at age 3 and children between the ages of 3 and 4 are welcome to come to the nursery as they transition to being in worship full time.

## Behavior Management

We respect the child's feelings, encourage positive actions, build self-esteem and focus on each child as a special valuable person. We attempt to guide children away from undesirable behaviors and towards more positive ones.

The following will be used:

- Structuring of the environment to eliminate as many of the "don'ts" as possible and maximizing the "do's"
- Redirect the child's interest to a more appropriate activity or to a less stimulating area
- Positive verbal suggestions
- Gentle physical restraint ONLY when the child's behavior could result in harm to him/herself, other children or the environment
- Natural consequences of the child's actions. For example, if the child throws crayons, they will be asked to pick them up.
- A short quiet time in the nursery, used as an opportunity for an upset child to regain self-control
- Should a situation arise which cannot be satisfactorily resolved by the above methods, the parents will be consulted and a strategy agreed upon for responding to future incidents

## Health Concerns

We ask that sick children not attend nursery because not only do they expose other children and our staff to illnesses, they are at risk for being exposed to other illnesses when their resistance is low. We appreciate your help in keeping our nursery healthy.

A child with a contagious illness should not be brought to the nursery. If a child has had a fever of 101 degrees or higher, please be sure your child has been fever-free for 24 hours or has been released by a doctor to return to group care.

Children with these symptoms should not be in the nursery:

- a temperature of 101 degrees or higher
- vomiting on one or more occasions in a one hour period
- more than one diarrhea bowel movement in a one hour period or bloody stool
- discharge from the eye or pinkeye
- any "weeping" skin sore or rash
- lice or scabies

### MEDICATION

Our nursery staff will NOT administer medication.

### INJURIES/ACCIDENTS

We will always inform you about any incident related to your child and will contact you immediately if anything serious occurs.