



CORNERSTONE

C H U R C H kids

Cornerstone Kids exists to equip the next generation by teaching them how to know Christ, how to grow in Christ, and how to show the love of Christ to those around them!

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Definition, Mission & Goals



What is Cornerstone Kids?

While it is the parent's duty and delight to be the primary disciplers of their children, Cornerstone Church feels a strong responsibility to do our part to come alongside parents and help teach and train the children in our faith family. You can see Cornerstone Kids as the strategy our church will use to help children *Know* Christ, *Grow* in Christ, and *Show* the love of Christ to those around them. To use a term that may be more familiar with most, Cornerstone Kids is the name we use for our children's ministry and offerings. Cornerstone Kids includes the ages of birth through high school.

What is the mission and goals of Cornerstone Kids?

Cornerstone Kids exists to equip the next generation by teaching them how to know Christ, how to grow in Christ, and how to show the love of Christ to those around them!

Know

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." John 14:6

Grow

Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. - Colossians 2:6-7

Show

...and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. - Acts 1:8

Cornerstone Kids is our ministry that is designed to come alongside parents and not interfere or hinder family discipleship in the home. We only have children under our influence for a short time every week, so we will use this time to labor well after our goal. We have set three goals that we think are crucial to the success of Cornerstone Kids and our mission.

- 1. Prayer must saturate our ministries, families, and efforts. Please join us in this.**
- 2. We must keep children safe and secure while they are in our care.**
- 3. We must teach children God's Word as we show them sincere love and worship of God in all that we do.**

Cornerstone Kids Current Ministries



Current Ministry Offerings & Efforts

Cornerstone Kids is our ministry plan specifically for children from birth through high school. Please see the below descriptions, by age group, and let us know if you have any questions!

Birth through Pre-K

Classes are available, but not required, during the Sunday morning worship gathering. At this age, no other discipleship classes are currently offered outside of the Sunday morning gathering. Classes may change depending on attendance, but here is an idea of the typical Sunday morning class information.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ages</u>
<i>Rocking Room</i>	Birth through 1
<i>Little Pebbles</i>	2
<i>Stepping Stones</i>	3 through Pre-K
Leader	Tina Hood

Kindergarten through High School

Once your child is in kindergarten and above, we believe it is crucial for them to gather with the church body and participate in the Sunday morning worship gathering. If your child has any specific needs and you believe they are not ready for the worship gathering, please contact Stephen Brentlinger and he would love to discuss this with you!

We want the children in Cornerstone Kids to be able to build friendships with those close to their age, and we also desire to offer biblical teaching from mentors to help aid in their discipleship. With this in mind, we offer discipleship classes for all ages kindergarten and above, outside of the Sunday morning gathering. We also have special nights once a month for a more relaxed time of fellowship and Bible study for certain ages.

Class Name	Grades	Sunday Morning Discipleship Class Time	Monthly Hang Out
<i>Little Rocks</i>	K – 1 st	9:30-10:15; 2 nd and 4 th Sundays monthly	N/A
<i>Rock Kids</i>	2 nd – 6 th	9:30-10:15; 2 nd and 4 th Sundays monthly	Announced when applicable
<i>Foundation</i>	7 th – 12 th	9:30-10:15; 2 nd and 4 th Sundays monthly	Announced when applicable

Leaders

<i>Little Rocks</i>	Tina Hood
<i>Rock Kids</i>	Michael & Mandy Thompson
<i>Foundation</i>	Channing Carl

Again, we would love to answer any questions you may have about Cornerstone Kids ministries, or how your family may fit into our faith family. Please contact Stephen Brentlinger to discuss any questions you may have or for any further information.

Child Protection Policy



Child Protection Policy

One of our primary goals as a church is that we must keep children safe and secure while they are in our care. In order to accomplish this, many of the policies and procedures are developed to assure this is accomplished to the best of our ability. A parent trusting us with their child is something we do not take lightly and has led to the following policies and guidelines.

The following are rules set in place to protect our volunteers and workers, but primarily to keep all children safe from abuse, neglect or harm in general. Some of them may seem harsh, but again, the safety and care for children in our ministry is crucial to our church and their well being.

Protecting Children While They Are In Our Care

- Workers should always remain in open sight of other adults. In some Cornerstone Kids ministries this may be difficult, but a worker should never be in a room with only a single child.
- Appropriate physical contact will vary according to the age of the child. What is appropriate for nursery children (holding, rocking, sitting in laps, diapering, assisting in the potty, etc.) will not be appropriate for grade school children.
- We do not change the diapers of children 5 and over. *If special needs are needed, please see leaders in the children's area, or speak directly with the Family Discipleship Pastor.*
- Sitting on laps is only appropriate for ages 0 through Pre-K, but it is not appropriate for older children. It is not appropriate for a man to pick up or hold a child who is older than Pre-K.
- In some situations, a man will need to limit physical contact more than a woman in the same situation, especially when working with older children.
- All caregivers should refrain from the following activities: roughhousing, wrestling, or giving shoulder and piggyback rides to children. Physical contact in group activities such as ultimate Frisbee, freeze tag, touch football, etc., is reasonable and understandable, but be above reproach in all relationships.
- Use care and discernment when hugging a child. Brief side-hugs when greeting or comforting a child are generally appropriate. Prolonged, frequent, or frontal hugs are not appropriate.
- Only touch children in "safe" areas and for brief times, with no rubbing or massaging. "Safe" areas generally includes part of the body that is not covered in a swimsuit. Never touch a child on or near any region that is, or could be considered to be, private or personal (unless changing diapers or assisting nursery-age children in the restroom).
- Never touch a child out of frustration or anger. Physical discipline is not an appropriate means of correcting someone else's child.

- Hall monitors or check-in leaders will monitor the hallway and area for general safety and care for all in our ministry. In the case of Rock Night, or other Cornerstone Kids ministries outside of normal church service time, hall monitors or check in leaders may not be available. During these instances, all behavior should be above reproach and the minimum of 2 adults in every room outlined below should be followed.

Protecting Children Using Female Leadership

We believe that entrusting certain roles and responsibilities to the women of our church is one way to take a proactive step towards protecting children from abuse or neglect. Sexual offenders are more likely to be male, so the following policies were put in place with that in mind.

- Only females may change diapers.
- Only females will take children to the bathroom and/or assist in the potty. We will not assist a child in the restroom when they are in grades Kindergarten and above. *Please speak to the Family Discipleship Pastor if special needs exist.*
- There will always be a minimum of 2 adults in every childcare room, 1 of which will be a female. The only time there is an exception is when a female has taken a child to the restroom, and a male check-in leader has to step into the room so that the “minimum of 2 adults” rule is met. This should be brief and the female should return to the room as quickly as possible.

Protecting Children Before They Arrive

- All volunteers must be in good standing with Cornerstone for at least six months before serving directly with children. In some cases, this may be waived due to a recommendation from leadership based on a personal relationship with the volunteer.
- All volunteers must be sixteen years of age or older.
- All volunteers and staff must have a criminal background check before serving.

Protecting Children As They Arrive and Depart

- All volunteers and workers should be in their assigned areas and ready to accept children a minimum of 15-20 minutes before a service or session.
- Parents are encouraged to pick their children up immediately upon the conclusion of the service or session.

Signing in

- Computer check-in should be functional around September 2019. Until then, parents or guardians must use the sticker provided to them to pick up their child.

Responsibility to Report

If any volunteer notices what they believe could be a violation of this policy, it is required that they report the incident to the check-in leader immediately. The check-in leader will inform the Family Discipleship Pastor, or another pastor in his absence.

If the incident of concern could be an act of sexual abuse, neglect or any other type of abuse, the incident will be reported to local authorities and Child Protective Services. Please contact the Family Discipleship Pastor, or another pastor in his absence, for help with completing reports with the appropriate agencies.

Nederland Police Department – (409) 727-1614

Child Protective Services – (800) 252- 5400

If a child discloses that a parent or another adult is causing harm, DO NOT talk with the parent or that adult about this. There is much discernment needed for these situations. Talking with the parent or adult could result in additional abuse to the child. Contact the Family Discipleship Pastor immediately or another pastor in his absence. It is our responsibility to report this issue without delay, while also continuing to care for the child.

It is not the responsibility of the church or worker to substantiate any allegations or suspicions. Rather, we are responsible as a church community to report any allegations or suspicions and let the proper authorities investigate the incident. Do not refrain from reporting an incident, allegation, or suspicion. If you need counsel on when or if to report anything, please contact the Family Discipleship Pastor immediately.

