**PCC GUIDELINES FOR CLASSROOMS**

Dear Volunteers and Parents,

Please see the information below. It provides some clarity on what you and your children can anticipate while they are at children’s ministry.

* Safety, security, wellbeing, and consistency is our priority.
* We maintain volunteer to child ratio, and there will always be 2 volunteers in the room.
* All volunteers over age 12 have cleared a criminal record check and received SARM training.
* Older children volunteering in the classroom have been approved by a Pastor, they are not included in the ratio and will not be left alone with the child.
* Parents may stay with their child for the first time in the class to see how our programs run. We have a special welcome procedure to introduce new children with their parents.
* The volunteers in the room are there to provide a fun, interactive, and meaningful church experience for the children. Their focus is the children.
* This space is part of our community. It is built on trust and has been created to foster their emotional and spiritual growth. It is a place where your family can learn trust others outside your family.
* Parents that need to be with their child during service may do so in the sanctuary or the foyer. Adults not on the schedule create an unbalance in the ratio, and it can be unsettling for the other children and parents. Please see a volunteer or staff prior to church service starting as we may have some coloring available.
* Should your child cry and cling to you, our volunteers are comfortable with supporting you so that you can leave. This is how we will do so with strategies such as:
* Reassure that their personal space and feelings will be respected, and an adult will sit beside them to connect with them.
* Ask you how long you are comfortable letting them cry before we call you back.
* At the end of the service they may provide feedback and be available to answer questions.
* In cases where your child needs you after you’ve left (such as bathroom needs, overwhelmed, etc.) we will page you on the screen.

*\*The infant and toddler room is for ages 0-2 years. This is the room where parent participation is permitted.* We do encourage parents to leave their child as the adult-child ratio is low and the volunteers in that room have been gifted with baby soothing abilities. Should you wish to stay in that room, please let the volunteer know so that they have the choice of going into service. When there are more adults than children in the room, it can be unsettling.

At any time you have questions or feedback, please contact Pastor Prince at prince.thomas@pacificcommunity.ca

Should you have any concerns that the above is not being followed, we do appreciate the feedback. These guidelines are in place so that all feel welcome here.

Thank you,