

**REDEMPTION  
CHURCH  
PEORIA  
PARENT  
HANDBOOK**

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2016 - 2017

# OUR VISION

**REDEMPTION KIDS IS DEDICATED TO MAINTAINING A SAFE AND LOVING ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN WHERE WE TEACH THE BIBLE AND LEARN ABOUT JESUS.**

**OUR GOAL IS TO EQUIP PARENTS WITH THE TOOLS NECESSARY TO BE THEIR CHILD'S PRIMARY SPIRITUAL LEADER.**

*“But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.”*

*Titus 2:1-8*

We would like to welcome you and your children to Redemption Kids Peoria. Please take the time to read through this handbook so that we can best serve you and your family.

If there is any way that we could serve you please feel free to contact me at any time.

Thanks,

Summer Wahlstrom, Redemption Peoria Kids Director  
[summerwahlstrom@redemptionaz.com](mailto:summerwahlstrom@redemptionaz.com)

## **CLASSROOM SIZE**

For safety reasons, we do limit the number of children in a classroom at any given time. The classroom size is based on appropriate child to teacher ratios.

Unfortunately there are times that, due to volunteer availability and classroom ratios, we may have to turn children away. This is something we never want to do. You can help us avoid this by being early and consistent in your service time and volunteering to serve with us in Redemption Kids.

## **CLASSROOM SUPPLIES**

### **Nursery and Toddlers**

Please bring necessary supplies for your child to the classroom (bottles, sippy cups, pacifiers and diapers). Our teachers make every effort to get all items returned to your child. Help us by double checking your diaper bag before you leave and by not bringing unnecessary items into the classroom whenever possible.

### **Toddlers, Pre-K, and Elementary**

We encourage children to bring their own Bibles to class so that they can follow along. Please label your child's Bible with their name.

## **VOLUNTEERING**

If you would like to volunteer in Redemption Kids, please note the contact information at the beginning of the handbook to request an application or pick one up from our Check In Desk on Sunday.

Once your application is complete, you can drop it off at the Connect Desk or Check in Desk on Sunday.

## **PROMOTION POLICIES**

Our classroom ages are guidelines. We trust that parents best know and understand when their child is ready to move up to the next class.

### **Please Note**

Because our Pre-K classroom is not set up for diaper changing, if your child has not been potty trained, we will be happy to keep him/her in a toddler classroom. Once the child is potty trained he or she may promote to the Pre-K class.

### **Nursery, Movers, Toddler and Pre-K Classrooms**

Children promote as they age. We do take into consideration developmental progress and are more than willing to promote earlier or later, depending on what is best for a specific child.

## **Elementary Classroom**

A child will promote to the Elementary classroom the summer before entering kindergarten.

## **CLASSROOM AGE GROUPS**

### **Nursery**

Ages 0-12 months

### **Toddlers**

Ages 12 months through 2 years. Children in this class must be confident walkers.

### **Pre-K**

Ages 3-5 years. Children in this class must be potty trained.

### **K-2nd**

Grades Kindergarten through 2nd.

### **3rd-5th**

Grades 3rd through 5th.

## **NURSING MOTHERS**

Nursing moms are welcome to use the chairs and changing table set up in the toddler hallway, or a small room off the kids hallway.

## **VALUES**

We place a high value on the following:

### **Parents are their child's primary spiritual leaders.**

We believe your role in your child's spiritual life is most important. We strive to support you in this role by planting a seed of knowledge in our Sunday classrooms and providing you, the parent, with many tools to grow this seed throughout the week.

### **Biblical teaching is at the heart of our ministry.**

As a church, we go through books of the Bible verse by verse. Our curriculum in our Sunday school classes mirrors the Sunday sermon so that families can learn and grow together. A lesson is taught in our classrooms (including Nursery/Movers) in order to take advantage of every opportunity to teach our kids about Jesus.

### **We are committed to providing a safe environment for your child.**

This includes both the physical classroom space and the volunteer staff who care for your child each week. Our classrooms are cleaned, stocked and maintained to the highest standards.

Our volunteers go through a thorough screening process, which includes an application, background and reference check, interview, training and class- room observation. A CPR and First Aid certified volunteer is always available.

**We value your time.**

Knowing how precious your time is each week, we strive to have classrooms open and available 15 minutes prior to the start of each service. Our computer check-in process is a safe and quick way to get your child checked-in. Likewise, when picking up your children, having your numbered tag available will make your departure quick and simple.

**MISSION**

We will cultivate family discipleship by teaching the gospel, equipping parents to lead their children, and making parents feel comfortable leaving their children in our care so they can focus on their spiritual growth.

*“One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.”*

Psalm 145:4-5

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

We strive to make Redemption Kids a place where families can learn and grow in God’s Word together. You can join us in this endeavor by making it a priority to:

**Be On Time Each Week**

This will ensure a smooth check-in process and ensure that your child doesn’t miss any classroom activities.

**Be Consistent With Your Attendance**

This will help your child make friends and develop relationships with his or her teachers and will allow them to build on the lessons taught weekly.

**Worship as a Family.**

We encourage parents of all children to pick their children up during the Response Time following the sermon so that they can worship together as a family.

**Continue the Lesson.**

We strive in providing you with many tools to continue the Sunday lesson throughout the week. These tools include using sermon-based curriculum in our classrooms and sending home many activities including a family activity for you to do with your child throughout the week. Please see our

curriculum section for more information.

### **Serve In A Classroom**

Spending time in our classrooms is a valuable opportunity to grow spiritually while also learning ways to impart spiritual truth to children. See the Volunteering section of this handbook for more information.

### **EMERGENCY/EVACUATION POLICIES**

In case of an emergency, parents will be contacted immediately. All of our volunteers are trained on appropriate procedures and a CPR/First Aid certified volunteer is always available.

#### **Evacuation**

In case of an evacuation, please pick up your children on the sidewalk in front of the school main office.

#### **Medical Emergencies**

In case of a medical emergency our volunteers are trained not to move a child and to get his/her parents before taking any action.

### **CLASSROOM FOOD POLICIES**

All of our classrooms are nut-free environments. Because of this, any outside snacks brought into our classrooms must be approved by a Redemption Kids Supervisor.

#### **Snacks**

Snacks and water are served in our Toddler, Pre-K, and Elementary classrooms. Our toddler classrooms will receive Cheerios. Our Pre-K and Elementary classrooms receive a different fresh fruit and vegetable every week with Light Ranch Dressing.

If your child cannot have the provided snack, you are welcome to provide your own snack as long as it has been approved by a Redemption Kids Supervisor.

\*Children in our Nursery classroom are only given snack if requested or approved by the parent.

### **BEHAVIOR POLICY**

We want Redemption Kids to be a place where children hear and learn God's word. We provide a positive atmosphere to help children thrive while teaching them to show respect toward the church and others. Our teachers encourage good behavior and address problems through love, redirection and prayer. Service supervisors will communicate with parents about behavior problems as needed and always seek to work as a team to correct a problem as quickly as possible.

## **VISITATION POLICIES**

To provide a carefully screened and trained environment, we must ask parents to refrain from entering any classroom unless requested by a Redemption Kids Staff. If you would like to visit your child's classroom, please have your child's teacher or our Check-in staff call a Redemption Kids Supervisor for approval.

## **CURRICULUM**

To help our families learn and grow together, our curriculum is created by our Redemption Kids Curriculum Team, and mirrors the Sunday sermon. Each class will include an activity and a craft to reinforce the lessons taught by the story. At the end of every service, you will receive information about what your child learned, a family prayer, and a family activity, so that you can disciple your child based on what they learned in class.

## **SPECIAL NEEDS**

We offer a special needs advocate to accompany your special needs child to class and assist him/her as needed in participating in class activities as much as is fitting. Please let us know ahead of time if your family will be using this service. We'll gather all necessary information and match him/her with an advocate.

## **CHECK-IN**

When you arrive on campus, you will find a check-in station at the entrance to the kids hallway off the main lobby.

### **New Families**

If you are new to Redemption Kids, a volunteer will be glad to assist you in setting up an account for your family at the Connect Desk in the lobby.

### **Returning Families**

If you are a Returning Redemption Kids family, you can search for your family by name or phone number. Click on each child that will be attending a class and print out the nametags (along with any special instructions your child needs for the day). You will also get a parent receipt (tag without your child's name) for yourself to use for pick up purposes. If you encounter any problems during the check-in process, our check-in volunteers will be glad to assist you.

### **Numbered Nametags**

For security purposes, your copy of the name tag will be required when you return to pick up any child. A child must be picked up by a parent or guardian. If you lose your parent receipt, please be patient as a Redemption Kids Supervisor verifies guardianship.

## **Paging Policy**

If you are needed at any time during the service, the number on your parent receipt corresponding to your child will be flashed on the screen in the sanctuary or you will receive a text message.

## **Special Instructions**

If your child has any severe food allergies or medical conditions we need to be aware of please ask the check in staff to add a red dot sticker to their tag.

## **ALLERGIES/MEDICAL CONCERNS**

If your child has special allergies and/or medical concerns, please be sure to note them when first registering your child into our computer check-in system. These will appear every week on your child's tag. If you forgot or need to add an allergy/medical concern to your child's profile, our Check-in staff can assist you. Please be sure to place a red dot sticker on the tag of any child that has allergies or medical concerns so that our volunteers are alerted of these concerns. Communication with your child's classroom leader as to their allergies or medical concerns can also ensure that your child's needs are best met.

## **WELL CHILD POLICY**

We are only equipped to serve as a "well child" ministry. Please avoid bringing a child to the classroom with any of the following:

- A temperature of 100\* or higher
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or upset stomach
- Any visible rash other than diaper rash
- Any drainage from the eyes, ears, or open sores
- Nasal discharge that is either green or yellow
- Extreme irritability or exhaustion
- Head lice
- Mouth sores
- Persistent coughing or sneezing (allergy or asthmatic symptoms excluded)
- If any member of the family contracts a contagious illness (i.e. pink eye, strep throat, head lice, chicken pox)
- Any illness that prevents them from fully participating in classroom activities.

## **BATHROOM/CHANGING POLICIES**

### **Nursery**

All children will have their diapers checked during each service. Only experienced female classroom volunteers are responsible for changing diapers.

## **Toddlers**

Female classroom leaders are responsible for both changing diapers and taking children to the bathroom. We always give a child as much privacy as possible, yet are available to help as needed. A bathroom stall in the main bathroom will be equipped with potty training gear.

In case of accidents, we do have extra clothing. You may keep these items if used, but bringing a spare set of clothing for potty training children is very helpful.

Our Pre-K classroom is not equipped with diaper changing stations. If your child has not been potty trained, we are happy to keep them in the toddler classroom. Once the child is potty trained he or she may promote to the Pre-K class.

## **Pre-K/Elementary Bathrooms**

Our Pre-K and Elementary classes will use the restrooms in the kids hallway. Children will always be accompanied by a volunteer, but never be alone with a volunteer.



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