



the**cross**community**church**

"a place to belong"

CrossKIDS POLICY

A core value at The Cross Church is to *create contagious environments*. The weekend service is designed specifically for adults and students, teaching on topics that are relevant to their lives. Likewise, the Cross Kids environments are designed with kids specifically in mind. It is our desire that kids would want to come to Cross Kids, bring their friends and they could take lessons into their everyday life. Because of this concept, it is our hope that you will allow your children ages 3 months to 5th grade to attend the environments that we have worked so hard to create for them.

The CrossKids Policy is not a rule against children being in an adult service; rather it is a policy valuing the importance of kids knowing Jesus is their friend and He can relate to their everyday world. There are three primary reasons for this policy:

- 1. Content.** As stated, the adult service is designed with adult content. While there are teachings that relate to anyone, we do address things in an adult service that would not be relevant or appropriate for a child. We may talk about what the Bible has to say about adult related topics such as sex, parenting, cultural issues, and finances. While important for adults, kids would feel this is over their head and irrelevant to their lives. It is of great importance that children not think that God or church is over their head or irrelevant. The content of the kids' environments is geared towards a child's learning level, with specific lessons they can apply in their lives.
- 2. Distractions.** We want everyone in the adult service to be able to focus on the message and participate in worship. The focus of I Corinthians 14 is maintaining a sense of order in a public worship service. If a child attends an adult service with their parent, that parent will have to devote some of their attention to entertaining their child while simultaneously trying to listen to the message. That is not ideal for anyone involved, the child, the parent or the distracted adult sitting behind them.
- 3. Appropriate Environments.** Kids are wired to move and interact with their environment; therefore, Cross Kids environments are designed to help kids learn about Jesus through interaction. If a child grew up only attending a

service where they were forced to sit still and the content was irrelevant to their life, then that child may grow up bitter towards the church. Allowing a child to interact in an environment designed for them, with age-appropriate content and fun, they could be dragging their parents to church, which is a win for all!

CrossKids Policy Details

All volunteers in our Children's Environments are background checked and trained to work with children. CrossKids also follows the Jefferson County School board in the placement of children in the proper class room. In the event that your child is homeschooled, we will place them according to the grade they would be in the public school system.

Our CrossKids Nursery Program is for children newborn to 3 years old. Our CrossKids Children's Church Program is for childrens ages 3 years old (potty trained) to 5th grade. Kids older than 5th grade are considered youth and are to go to the adult service.

All CrossKids programs have a child check-in process that begins 10 minutes before the adult service at 10:39 am. Parents will create a unique PIN that will allow them to check their children in and out of the children's environments. All children's environments will be locked at the before the start of check in and during the service. If you need to pick up your child early, alert a volunteer in the booth or in the lobby and they will get someone to go get your child. Once your child is checked out, they cannot return to that children's environment. You can watch the remainder of the service in the lobby or the cafe but please do not re-enter the auditorium. Each child will need to be checked out using the PIN code the parent creates at drop off.

Parents and other non-volunteers will not be allowed in the nursery or children's environments with the exception of mother's needing to feed babies in the nursery. Text message alerts via our check in system will be sent to the parent(s) whose numbers are on file in our system in the event that we need you to come get your child during the service.

Nursery Specific: We know that babies cry and our volunteers have experience with children or they would not be in our nursery. When crying is not due to any obvious concern (physically hurt or sick), the volunteer will console the children by addressing needs like wanting to be held, needing a diaper change, etc. If attempts

to calm the child are not successful and the child has been crying for 10 minutes, the volunteers will notify the parents via text to come pick up their child.

Checking In Your Child

All regular attendees and first-time guests will check in at the Check-In Station.

1. Child check-in will begin at 10:29 (10 minutes before our service starts.) If children are not checked in by the time our band goes on stage, there may not be anyone there to check them in once our service has started. Children are checked in by the parent or person responsible for the child at the check in station located in the Kids wing. The parent/ responsible party will be given a pin number at check in that will allow them to check their child out at the end of the service.
2. All Children's environments doors will be locked before the service and once the check in is closed. Parents and other non-volunteers will not be allowed in the children's environments. **With the exception of mothers going into the nursery to feed infants.**
3. Children can be checked out via the PIN given to the parent or guardian at check in. Children can be checked during the service if needed but will not be allowed to return to that environment once checked out. If you need to check your child out early or have been asked to come get your child, please alert a volunteer in the production booth or the lobby.
4. In the event that we need you to come get your child, you will be sent a text message alert via our child check in system. We ask that you keep your phone on vibrate and where you can see it during the service. If you receive an alert, make your way to the child check in station where they will meet you with your child.

Check in/ out Instructions

1. Gather your child/ children and bring them to the check in station starting at 10:29.
2. **Regular attendees:** give the check in station volunteer your child/ children's names and you will be asked to create a PIN to use at check out. Your child is now checked in and will be taken to the correct children's environment for their age. **First time guests:** will be asked to fill out a short form to get their information and their child/ children's information. Once that is completed, the parent or guardian will be asked to create a PIN to be used at check out. Now their child is checked in and taken to the correct children's environment.

3. We ask that parents or guardians keep their phone on vibrate and where you will see an alert if we text you to come pick up your child.
4. When picking up, please wait outside the door to allow one of our volunteers to bring your child to you. The child/ children will only be released to the parent or guardian who dropped them off or is listed as an Emergency Contact in our system.

Entering the Classroom

1. If a diaper and/or diaper bag is left with the child; make sure that the diaper bag has a nametag on it. The parent is asked to write his/her child's full name using a permanent marker on all bottles, pacifiers, diapers and/or cups that are left with the child.
2. If the child is a crawling infant or a toddler, ask if there are any allergies and note them under "Special Instructions" on the form.
3. Please do not send your child with toys, handheld games, etc. Our volunteers have worked hard to prepare for your children, and there are plenty of things to do in each class. You may send "comfort or security" toys to help children feel safe and secure (blankets, teddy bears, etc.)
4. With the exception of baby bottles, there is no food or drink allowed in any of the children's environments. From time to time we may have a snack or candy given out by the teachers in our CrossKids environment, for this purpose, please make sure we are aware of any allergies your child may have.

Other Children's Program Reminders

1. If children are not dropped off prior to our band starting worship, the children's environment doors may be locked and no one there to check them in. This is done to minimize the disruptions for our teachers in the nursery and CrossKids rooms.
2. Please keep all personal toys at home or in the car.
3. Please allow your child to finish all food and drink before entering the classrooms.
4. Please do not bring your children if they are sick. Our volunteers are not allowed to administer medicine except for an EpiPen. And please make sure that any allergy information is listed on your child's information. Occasionally, our lessons may have candy or food in them, and we want to make sure everyone is safe.
5. Our volunteers and staff may take photos in the children's environments. These photos may be posted to Facebook or our websites. Parents must opt-out in writing if they do not want their child photographed, please notify the check-in volunteer if you wish to opt-out.

