

# CHILDREN'S FACILITIES

## PARENTAL EXPECTATIONS

- ✓ Studies say that a guest makes a decision about returning to a church within the first 7 minutes of arriving on campus, long before they experience the music or sermon.
- ✓ One key question is what kind of impression do they make to guests, especially those with children? Is their facility one that reflects the church's commitment to children's engagement and safety?

## FLOORING

- ✓ Is flooring clean, in good condition and visually appealing?
- ✓ Choose carpet that is commercial grade (tight loops, anti-static, stain resistant and anti-microbial). Carpet squares are a good choice.
- ✓ Floors should be comfortable for seating, easy to clean, and allow freedom to move.



## ROOM COLORS

- ✓ Are paint and walls clean, in good condition? Are colors fresh and up to date?
- ✓ Do colors enhance the teaching environment and classroom behavior?
- ✓ Vibrant colors (reds, oranges and bright yellow) stimulate a child's activity level and interest. Best with limited natural lighting.
- ✓ Cooler colors (mid and light blues, natural greens, and lavender) promote calm behavior and activity. Best with lots of natural lighting.



## CLUTTER REDUCTION

- ✓ Are there items that are no longer used that need to be stored/tossed?
- ✓ Are there more than a small number of teaching pictures attached to the focal wall? Are there outdated resources or papers?
- ✓ Do shelves have materials that need to be cleaned or straightened? Are there bins or shelves crammed with excess toys?
- ✓ Is there open floor space in the classroom for games and activities?



## LIGHTING

- ✓ Is lighting appropriately bright?
- ✓ Are windows clean and clear of dated or faded curtains?
- ✓ Do the lights flicker or buzz?



## DOORS AND WINDOWS

- ✓ Do doors meet national standards for safe egress?
- ✓ Are there windows in or near the door that provides clear sightlines into teaching areas?



## WALLS AND SIGNAGE

- ✓ Does signage allow guests to navigate your church without having to ask for directions?
- ✓ Are bulletin boards up to date with fresh materials, not faded? Is tape used on the wall or bulletin boards in infants/toddlers room to avoid choking hazards like tacks or staples?
- ✓ Are murals minimal in presence? Are the murals distracting in teaching spaces?



## STORAGE

- ✓ Is there enough storage for teaching materials?
- ✓ If toy boxes are primarily used to store toys, is it frequently checked for broken toys?
- ✓ Is it so full that children have difficulty finding and playing with the toys within? Does the toybox add to a sense of cluttered space in the classroom?



## TEACHING SPACE

- ✓ Ratios of children to leaders, with a minimum of two adults leaders in every classroom:

Babies-Twos:	1:3
Threes-Fours:	1:4
Kindergarten:	1:5
First-Second Grades:	1:6
Third-Sixth Grades:	1:8



- ✓ Preferred preschool teaching space is 35 square feet per child with an open floor space of at least 12' X 16'.
- ✓ Preferred children's teaching space is 25 square feet per child based on 80% enrollment numbers with an open floor space for games and activities.

## SAFETY

- ✓ Is there a window in or near every teaching space in your church? Is someone assigned to randomly monitor activity in the classrooms by walking the hallways and looking through the windows without interrupting the teaching occurring within?
- ✓ Are freestanding cabinets, bookshelves, TVs, etc. secured to prevent tipping?
- ✓ Are changing tables sturdy and stable enough for diapering? Is the mat on the table left uncovered so that it can be sanitized between each diaper change? Are necessary changing materials within easy reach?
- ✓ Are there sharp edges on tables or cabinets that need bumper pads? Are there tripping hazards that need to be removed?
- ✓ Are toys and materials frequently checked to make sure they are not small enough to be a choking hazard? Are cords secured out of the reach of children?



## CLEANLINESS

- ✓ Do teaching spaces smell fresh and clean and free of musty and moldy odors?
- ✓ Are flooring and rugs periodically cleaned and sanitized, especially where children often sit or play on the floor?
- ✓ Are toys and equipment in good repair and cleaned on a regular rotation?
- ✓ Are trash cans emptied each week? Are trash cans for dirty diapers lidded and sanitized periodically?
- ✓ Is there a water source or cleaning solution for handwashing or cleaning in the classroom or nearby?



## TOY SELECTION

- ✓ Are toys or pieces of equipment age appropriate?
- ✓ Can this toy be used in a variety of ways? Is this piece of equipment or toy well-made and can it withstand heavy use?
- ✓ Does the toy have sharp edges? Are there any small pieces that might be broken off and swallowed by a child? Can the moving parts of the toy pinch or trap a child's finger?
- ✓ Is the toy made from nontoxic and nonflammable materials?



## SENSORY CONSIDERATIONS

- ✓ Is lighting soft, without glare? If fluorescent lighting is used, does it flicker or have a low hum or buzzing sound that could distract a child with sensory issues?
- ✓ Are rugs or carpets available for sound dampening or are headphones available for children with sensory needs?
- ✓ Is there a plan to provide quiet zones such as bean bags, tents, large pillows or other comfortable items for children who need a quiet area to reset emotions and behaviors?

