

GRACE KIDS FAQs

ALL DIVISIONS:

Q: Who will be working with my kid(s)? What qualifications do leaders have to teach my kid(s)?

A: Grace Kids is comprised of volunteers who are passionate about serving in our ministry! Each volunteer submits an application, a background check (18+), attends a GK Vision Class, and shadows one of our experienced leaders before officially starting volunteering. It sounds like a lot, but we want our kids to be safe and our volunteers to be equipped.

Q: Can my kids stay in service with me?

A: It's a family's personal decision where their kids go for services. Kids are welcome in the auditorium, but they may enjoy the fun environment of Grace Kids more! We have age appropriate environments for all kids (birth - 6th grade) and every activity is geared to their age-group and developmental level.

Q: How do you keep kids safe and accounted for?

A: Safety and security are fundamental to your kid's experience with Grace Kids. Each kid is checked-in and accounted for at all times. The Grace Kids area is monitored by security cameras and our volunteer security team at all times. Kids cannot be picked up by anyone without the pick-up tag that is printed out at check-in.

Q: What if my kid needs me during service?

A: Parents will be notified via text on their cellphone if they are needed. Please make sure that the cellphone number we have on file for you is always up to date. If you receive a text, we ask that you please exit the auditorium immediately and go to meet a GK representative who will escort you to your kid.

Q: Why is my kid's group a color?

A: Nursery - Our colored rooms are based on age and developmental milestones. They will promote to the next color in general at 13, 19, and 25 months or when they reach the milestone for the next class. Depending on the service or campus, multiple colors might be grouped in one physical room.

A: GKJr - Once kids turn 3, we desire for them to build friendships with their peers. Our GKJr colors match who they will attend school with from Kindergarten through high school — so let's start growing friendships now! GKJr promotes to the next color the first weekend of June. Depending on the service or campus, multiple colors might be grouped in one physical room.

Q: What are your kid-to-volunteer ratios?

A: Ratios vary by age level, but we will always have a *minimum of 2 volunteers* in every room. Below are our *ideal* ratios:

- 0-18 months to have 2-3 kids per 1 adult volunteer
- 9-24 months to have 3-5 kids per 1 volunteer
- 2 & 3 year olds to have 6-8 kids per 1 volunteer
- 4 & 5 year olds to have 8-9 kids per 1 volunteer
- Kindergarten-6th grade to have 8-10 kids per volunteer

Q: What is the dress code?

A: We have no set dress code. We encourage any clothing that will not hinder kids from fully participating in class and that will not distract them, or any other kids.

Q: What time should my kid arrive to the room prior to services?

A: We recommend you arrive 10 minutes before the service start time so that you can get your kid(s) checked in and dropped off in their room in time for everyone to enjoy the entire service.

Q: What curriculum do you use?

A: Nursery - For ages 0-2 we use an adapted boxed curriculum from "Hands-On Bible Curriculum." Lessons are short, hands-on and interactive.

A: GKJr - We write our own curriculum. Our GKJr kids walk through the Bible telling the *one story of Jesus* each year.

A: Elementary - We write our own curriculum. When appropriate, this curriculum covers the same topics that are taught in the adult worship service, only taught in a way that they will understand.

A: G56 - We write our own curriculum that encourages our 5th and 6th graders to live out their faith as well as provides a safe place for them to ask hard questions about their faith.

For more information, feel free to contact your campus Grace Kids Director.



Q: Do you have the same curriculum at all campuses?

A: No matter which campus (including online) you attend, we will cover the same curriculum.

Q: What if my kid has a food allergy?

A: Please make the Grace Kids leader aware of all of your kid's allergies at drop off. To have an allergy added to your kid's name tag, visit the Welcome Center. Every Grace Kids room is peanut-free. Kindergarten and younger classrooms are also dairy-free, nut-free, and gluten free. All of our snacks follow these guidelines and we encourage NO outside food or drinks in the rooms (with the exception of baby bottles). Ages 3 and older typically do not serve snacks. As an extra precaution, if your kid has any allergies, please make sure your kid's room leader is fully aware of them.

Q: Do I need to send offering money with my kid?

A: Our heart is to instill the same Biblical truths that are taught church-wide, to our kids as well. That is why we do take time to collect offering for kids ages 3 years and older. However, it is certainly not a requirement. Both our GKJr and Elementary divisions have fun designated locations to securely collect offering.

Q: Can you accommodate kids with special needs?

A: Absolutely! Grace Kids partners with our Grace Special Needs ministry! Grace Special Needs is a ministry dedicated to kids and adults with special needs. We strive to be an inclusive church. We can accommodate all kinds of special needs in our weekend programming and events. Visit the Grace Special Needs page for more info about this amazing ministry.

Q: Do you have Vacation Bible School (VBS) in the summer?

A: Yes! Grace's version is called Summer BreakOut (SBO). We offer a three day SBOJr for ages 4 years - 1st grade and another five day SBO for kids grades 2nd - 5th grade. Dates and times may vary by campus.

Q: What is your sick policy?

A: Please see our Policy/Procedures document for wellness policy details.

Q: How do you communicate with parents?

A: Grace Kids sends a monthly newsletter, periodic emails, and has division & campus specific GroupMe chats that you can join. Feel free to email or stop and chat with any Grace Kids staff member at anytime. For contact information, visit the staff page of the website.

Q: What is your policy on administering medications?

A: We do not administer any medications. If your kid requires medication, please make arrangements to personally administer what is required before check-in.

NURSERY SPECIFIC FAQS (BIRTH-2 YEARS)

Q: Where can a nursing mom nurse in private?

A: We have a designated private spot at each campus for nursing moms. Ask a GK staff member or the Welcome Center for directions.

Q: What items do I need to drop off with my baby/toddler?

A: This will vary based on each kid's needs. Feel free to leave whatever he/she will need during service. Please label your kid's belongings before you arrive (bags, bottles, pacifiers, etc). We also have laminated bag tags available when you check-in your kid. Other than bottles, please do not bring any other food items. We will provide a snack that is allergy friendly for all of the kids in the room.

Q: Will my kid have a snack during service?

A: Snacks are provided to nursery kids during most services if they are sitting up on their own, unless you request otherwise. Allergy-friendly snacks include various flavors of Cheerios, Rice Chex, and baby Puffs. All snacks are gluten-free, dairy-free, and nut free.

Q: If I have my kid in service with me and I feel like he/she has become too loud to stay in service, what are my options?

A: This will be up to you. You may choose to go to the cafe to listen to the remainder of the service or you can also choose to check them into the nursery at anytime during the service.

Q: Can I join my baby/toddler in the nursery?

A: As a part of our security policy, we do not allow adults into our rooms until they are background checked. If you do not have a current background check on file, we ask that you do not enter the rooms. Please see our Policies and Procedures document for more information about security.

Q: What is your policy on diaper changes?

A: If your kid needs to be changed during services, please provide diapers. If your child needs changed during service, an adult female volunteer will change the diaper in the room.

Q: What is your policy on potty training?

A: We would love to help you in the process of potty training your toddler! Please tell the leader in the room when your child begins potty training and provide guidance on how often your kid should try to go and any other tips you may have. An adult female volunteer will assist your toddler as needed in the restroom. We recommend leaving an extra change of clothes just in case. Sometimes accidents happen in new settings. If an accident happens an adult female volunteer will assist your kid in changing clothes.

GKJR SPECIFIC FAQS (AGES 3-KINDERGARTEN)

Q: What do I need to drop off with my kid?

A: Please drop off diapers or pull ups, if they are still needed. Our rooms are equipped with many age-appropriate toys and centers. There is no need to leave any food or drink (including sippy cups), pacifiers or personal toys in the room. This is designed to avoid loss or confusion of items between kids.

Q: Will my kid have a snack?

A: Typically no. Occasionally we offer an allergy-friendly snack that enhances our Bible lesson for the day. Please make sure the leader in the room knows if your child has any food allergies.

Q: What can my GKJR kid expect in a typical service?

A: Kids begin each service in their age-level rooms. About 15 minutes after the start of service they will gather for Kids Worship Jr. In this large group format, they praise together and hear an interactive story. Back in their age-level rooms they will discuss the story in small groups, play games, do a craft and have some center time.

GRACE KIDS ELEMENTARY SPECIFIC FAQS (GRADES 1-4)

Q: What can my elementary aged kid expect in a typical service?

A: Kids begin each service in their large group space for large-group praise and multi sensory, interactive story time. Kids then go to their age-level rooms and break into small groups (some services will combine grade levels). Through a variety of interactive activities and hands-on Bible learning, they will personally apply the lesson.

Q: What are Bible Bucks/the Bible Bucks store?

A: Bible Bucks are a simple way of rewarding kids for memorizing verses, bringing their Bibles, bringing a friend to church, and demonstrating Christ-like qualities during the service. Kids collect bucks and can spend them at the Bible Bucks store at the end of all services on the last weekend of each month. They will have a chance to spend their bucks to help support one of Grace's Outreach Partners or on a special treat for themselves. This is another way that they can be outward-focused.

Q: What do I do if my kid wants to take the next step in his/her faith?

A: One of the goals of Grace Kids is to communicate the gospel to each kid in order for them to understand and accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. A kid's salvation is both an important and precious milestone! We want you as the parent to be the one that leads your kid in this prayer. If you feel unequipped helping your kid in this decision, we will be happy to assist you. If a kid has already prayed for salvation, we'd love to hear about it and



add his/her handprint to the "New Followers of Jesus" wall at your campus. If a kid desires to be baptized, please register for our next *Why Baptism? Class* and/or our next *New Believers Class* (grades 3-5). Ask your campus' Grace Kids Director for more information on either of these classes.

GRACE56 SPECIFIC FAQS (5TH & 6TH GRADERS)

Q: What is G56?

A: G56 is a special ministry designed for fifth and sixth graders. Our vision is to provide a safe and enjoyable community for fifth and sixth graders to build friendships with their peers as they get to know the Grace Students staff. While fifth graders tend to disconnect from Grace Kids programming as they look forward to middle school, sixth graders can have a difficult time transitioning to adult worship services and Grace Students programming. With this tension in mind, we've created an environment to bridge the gap from Grace Kids to Grace Students.

Q: What curriculum is used in G56?

A: We write our own curriculum for this group of preteens. We will focus on answering their hard questions about their own faith, making their faith their own, and more. We understand that this can be an eccentric age as the transition from kid to teen.

Q: Can my 5th grader still attend Grace Kids events?

A: Absolutely!

Q: Can my 6th grader attend Grace Students services and events?

A: Absolutely! Grace Students meets for their services on Wednesday evenings at all of our campuses.

Q: Will my 5th/6th grade be given a snack?

A: Yes, sometimes donuts, hot chocolate, and other snacks are provided as a way to build friendship and enhance this fun environment. By this age most kids know their own allergy/dietary restrictions, so this room is nut free, but no other dietary restrictions are followed. If your child needs to avoid a snack/drink please speak with him/her before class.