



Nowra Church of Christ Kid's Church

Behaviour Management Procedure

Child protection and safety is everybody's responsibility. At Nowra Church of Christ, parents are expected to supervise their children whenever they are on the church premises or involved in church related programs. To supervise means to be actively aware of where your child is and be responsible for what they are doing at all times. This is especially important during the morning tea time after our Sunday morning gatherings and during the gatherings when Kid's Church programs are not operating. It is expected that parents will step in when inappropriate or unsafe behaviours are present, to minimise risk to their own child and to others. When children are involved in a ministry program where parents are not present, there are specific guidelines our leaders and volunteers will follow to ensure everyone's safety and the effective running of the program.

For injury or illness: If a child is injured or becomes unwell during the program, the parent will be notified directly, and the leaders will continue to look after the child's needs until the parent arrives.

For behaviour management: While we understand that certain behaviours can be expected to some degree due to developmental stage, we have a duty of care to ensure children are cared for in a safe environment - physically, emotionally, mentally, socially and spiritually. The behavior management plan outlined below is somewhat flexible, and the exact process will depend on the age and development of the child or young person in the program. In every program, children are expected to **listen to their leaders** and **show respect to each other**. Leaders and parent volunteers promote these positive behaviour guidelines through praise, role-modelling, and the occasional token reward. If a child is not following these guidelines, our process for managing children's behaviour is as follows:

- The child is given two warnings, and is removed from the group (still within sight of the leader) for several minutes. If the behaviour occurs again after the child has re-joined the group, the child is returned to their parent/guardian. If the behaviour is severe or causes injury, the child will be returned to their parent without a prior warning. Where the behaviour is present for two or more days of attending the program, the child may be asked (through consultation with the parent / guardian) not to attend the following week.
- If a child is returned to his/her parent/guardian for two or more weeks in a row, the parent and the ministry leader and/or a representative from the Children's and Families Ministry Team will meet together to make a plan to move forward. Options may include, but are not limited to, the child not attending the program for an agreed number of weeks; the parent attending the program *with* their child until the behavior stops; or the leaders of the ministry implementing strategies within the program agreed on by both the leader and the parent. When appropriate, the child will be involved in this process also. This will be at the discretion of the ministry leader and/or the Ministry Team representative.

Parents are encouraged to speak with the leader of the ministry program their child attends about this process or about how their child is going in Kid's Church. The appropriate contact details can be found in the brochure specific to the program attended on the ministry wall of the auditorium.

NB: We actively discourage children bringing toys to our Kid's Church programs as they can become a distraction to the program our volunteer leaders are implementing. If a child requires specific toys or objects as aids these are required to fit within the above guidelines. Parents are asked to discuss this with the leader of the program they attend before bringing them into Kid's Church so guidelines can be established with the leader to minimise the effect of these objects on other children and the program.