

Preschool and Children's Ministries

There is one staff member and several teams and organizations that work with preschoolers and children. Here is how it works at First Baptist.

Who Does What

- **Minister of Students and Children's Education:** This person, reporting to the pastor, serves as a resource person to coordinate the teams, ministries, and functions below.
- **Teaching Ministry Leadership Team:** This team oversees the entire teaching ministry of the church. This includes Sunday School, Discipleship Training, TeamKids, and children's missions groups. This team has a person who oversees Sunday School and a person who oversees Discipleship Training. They also have a Sunday School Preschool Division Director who reports through their Sunday School director to the team. The Teaching Ministry Leadership Team, together with the ministerial staff, have sole authority to select and approve curriculum for Sunday School, Discipleship Training, and Wednesday night activities.
- **Sunday School:** All Sunday School classes are under the Teaching Ministry Leadership Team. There is a preschool and children's division director who reports to the Sunday School Director, who in turn is a member of the Teaching Ministry Team. If a parent were to have a question about their child's class, they would ask the Preschool and Children's Division Director.

Sunday School is the primary ministry program of the church. The other preschool and children's ministries are subordinate to Sunday School. For example, in deciding room assignments, or how to equip and arrange classrooms, the appropriate Sunday School leader makes the call.

- **Discipleship Training:** Discipleship Training is under the Teaching Ministry Leadership Team. This team has a member who serves as Discipleship Training Director and who is responsible for preschool and children's Discipleship Training classes. If parents have questions about preschool or children's Discipleship Training, this is the person they should contact.
- **Extended Teaching Care Team:** Extended Teaching Care (ETC) is provided for preschoolers Birth-Age 4 during worship services - Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday nights, and for revival services and other special events. It is called **Extended** because it extends beyond Sunday School in the morning and beyond Discipleship Training at night. It is called **Care** because we provide Child Care. And it is called **Teaching** Care because we try to teach and not just baby sit. Extended Teaching Care is staffed by volunteers, reinforced by paid workers. The paid workers are there to provide a familiar face to the children and to fill where needed. Curriculum is approved by this team together with the ministerial staff.
- **Preschool Activities Ministry Team:** This team provides fun activities for preschoolers, birth to Kindergarten during times other than normal church services.
- **Children's Activities Ministry Team:** This team provides fun activities for children, grades 1-6 during times other than normal church services.

- **Preschool and Children's Choirs:** These choirs are led by people selected by, and under the supervision of, the Minister of Music.
- **Children's Ministries Council:** This group is led by the Minister to Students and Children. It includes the Preschool and Children's Sunday School Division Director, the Extended Teaching Care Team Leader, a representative of the preschool and children's choirs (as appointed by the Minister of Music), the team leader of the Preschool Activities Team and the Team Leader of the Children's Activities Team. Meeting with the team, when needed, is a member of the Upward Basketball Team. The purpose of this council to facilitate communication between the organizations and teams, and to provide for collaboration on joint-projects.

How Teams Work

- Each team is responsible to regularly meet for planning, and to carry out ministry.
- Each Team has a ministerial staff member assigned to provide guidance and resources.
- Each team has a Team Task Directive.

This directive tells the team what the church is authorizing them to do. The Team is expected to channel their efforts within the boundaries of their assigned ministry. Even though teams are given freedom within their scope of ministry, they are limited to that area of the church's work. If they have an idea that falls in another team's area of responsibility, they are expected to give their suggestion to the appropriate team. However, sometimes teams collaborate on special projects when their areas of ministry overlap. All teams are expected to communicate and cooperate with each other and the overall church program.

Terms:

Younger Preschoolers: Babies to 2-year olds

Middle Preschoolers: 3-year olds to pre-K

Older Preschoolers: Kindergarten

Younger Children: Grades 1-2

Middle Children: Grades 3-4

Older Children: Grades 5-6

Youth: Grades 7-12

RA's: Royal Ambassadors, the missions group for boys, grades 1-6

GA's: Girls in Action, the missions group for girls, grades 1-6

Missions Friends: The missions group for preschoolers

TeamKids: Bible study group for children

Bible Drill: Teaches children how to find the books of the Bible; includes Scripture memory.