

All Aboard Turtles for a Great Year!

September 9, 2007



Dear **Turtles** Parents,

Welcome to the Early Childhood program here at King of Glory Lutheran Church. We have lots of exciting things this year for our new and returning students. Please take note to some of the following information; we hope you find it helpful.

Each Sunday morning, please escort your child directly to their classroom. There you will find their nametag and centers/toys to explore. If no teacher or aide is present, please stay with your child until one arrives. If your child has difficulty separating from you, please feel free to stay until they feel comfortable.

We do want to make note of one main difference of this classroom from the rest. Children who are in the Turtles class will remain a Turtle until they meet the age requirement to enter the Butterflies class during the fall registrations. (Children do not move classes within the year, only at the beginning of each school year in September). For example, if your child will not be 3 by Sept. 1, 2008, he/she will come back for another exciting year in the Turtles room. We have designed the room and activities specifically for this purpose. A returning child will encounter a whole new experience based on their interest and repetition of the stories is wonderful for this age group! We are very excited to provide this type of classroom which allows for more age appropriate play, learning and development.

We use Hands-On Bible Curriculum which is published by Group. The lessons are active, interactive, and have very basic truth for children of this age level to understand. The Turtles lesson format consists of a Bible story followed with interactive centers (imagination, hands-on, craft & color), songs and other activities to reinforce the Biblical truth within the story. You can expect a "Today I Learned/Parent Page" to come home with your child at the end of class which includes family activities you can do at home to share in their learning adventure. We have also attached an outline of the Bible stories and lessons that will be taught in you child's classroom this fall.

The children will come to a group gathering time with their class at the beginning of the morning. During this time, we will sing songs, celebrate birthdays and share a short lesson. Our gathering theme this year is "Counting Our Blessings", where we will explore some of the wonderful blessing God gave to us.

Safety is our top priority. You will notice we have marked all exit doors with stop signs to give the children visual boundaries for their surroundings. We will also talk with the children during gatherings about what the stop signs mean, "No child may go out those doors without an adult." We are fortunate to have so many volunteer teachers and aides to help with supervision.

We ask for your help in keeping personal toys, candy or gum at home. These can be distracting for other children. If a toy is brought in, it will be set aside until the end of class to encourage sharing of existing classroom toys. Also, please label your child's jackets/sweaters. If you leave one behind, we will put it in the lost and found basket inside the nursery.

For the health of your child and others, it is requested that your child stay home if any of the following symptoms exist especially within 24 hours:

1. Fever (must be Tylenol-free for 24 hrs.)
2. Vomiting and diarrhea
3. Common cold – from onset to 1 week.
4. Cough or croup
5. Skin rashes and skin infections
6. Possibility of chicken pox, mumps or measles
7. Eye infection: pink eye....even if on medication

Lastly, we ask that if your child is in diapers or potty training, please leave a diaper bag clearly marked with the child's name with items needed. All diaper changes will take place in the nursery (not in the classroom). If you are in the process of potty training, please take your child to the bathroom before class begins. There is a toddler bathroom located directly inside the classroom.

We are looking forward to a great year spending time with you and your child!

Susan Bell & Stephanie Spade
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