

Blooming Glen Mennonite Church

Child Safety Guidelines for Children's and Youth Ministries

Statement of Purpose

As a church, we believe in nurturing the spiritual, emotional, and physical well being of children. These guidelines are intended to ensure that church activities involving children are consistent with the teachings and example of Jesus, with the Christian tradition of nurturing children, and in compliance with the Pennsylvania state law.

The primary purpose of this policy is to promote the safety and well being of children and youth by providing clear instructions about the operation of children's and youth ministries at Blooming Glen Mennonite Church (BGMC). Our church leadership sincerely requests the cooperation of the adults in our church to abide by these guidelines.

Worker Selection and Supervision

Church workers, including substitutes, who are involved in children's and youth activities and ministries will be selected, "cleared," and supervised according to the attached Selection, Clearance, and Supervision guidelines.

Two-Adult Rule

At least two "cleared" adults should be present during any church-sponsored program, event, or ministry involving children or youth. Adult guests are welcome to participate in activities, but only "cleared" adults should be given supervisory responsibilities. One of the adult chaperones should have First Aid/CPR training for overnight activity.

Child Safety

Parents are responsible to accompany their children to the restroom during the Worship hour. Children through grade two should be picked up by a parent before they are released from their classroom.

Parents are responsible

to make arrangements with the teacher when they have designated another person to pick up the child. When hallways are empty or during an evening activity, parents are responsible to make provisions for their children so they are not left unattended in the building.

Parental Permission

Parents should be well informed of the events in which their children will be participating. Essential information will be included on a parental consent form. Written parental consent should be obtained for children/youth participation in Boys/Girls clubs; Jr. High Youth Group; Senior High Youth Group; Summer Bible School; mentoring; and any additional off-site activities. Consent forms will be kept on file by the supervising staff member for the current year. All off-site activities need to be cleared through the supervising staff member.

Transportation

Individual children or youth should not be given rides by an individual adult. If not possible, alternative arrangements should be worked out by a parent and a supervising staff member or sponsor. Those who are transporting children must have a valid driver's license and current auto insurance.

Touching

Our church is taking steps to protect the children/youth in our care. BGMC realizes that hugging and other forms of appropriate physical touch, between workers and children/youth, are important for their development and are generally suitable in our church setting.

Mandated Reporting

Clergy and all paid or unpaid volunteers supervising or assisting in a regularly scheduled program, activity or service, are mandated to report suspected child abuse to Childline. (See reporting guidelines)