

Creche

Welcome to the Cornerstone Creche.

We love to have babies and young children with us here at Cornerstone. The idea of creche isn't to be a place where babies and young children are banished to during a service. Instead, parents can make use of it during the service for as little or as much time as they would like. We are comfortable with (even welcome!) the inevitable bits of noise that babies and children make during a service, so if you are a parent of a baby or young child, please don't feel you have to rush out to creche at that point. We ask everyone in our church to be patient with kiddy noise. We also ask parents of young children to be aware of continuous disruption that children can sometimes cause and, in those circumstances, to take their children out to creche.

We ask that a parent/guardian accompanies and looks after their own child(ren) in Creche. There is also an audio link via Zoom in the creche space so you have the opportunity to join in with parts of the service.

We hope and pray that this space will be a relaxed, appropriate and safe space for you and your child(ren) to play during a Service. To help with this, if you are new to the Cornerstone Creche, please do familiarise yourself at some point with the rest of this sheet. We appreciate you may not have the time to read this right now. The information found here can also be found in

- Children and Youth Booklet – Available on the Church Welcome Desk
- www.cornerstonegrays.org/children-youth

The Creche Toys

We rent the space here at the school each week and have to pack up and move the toys each week. As a result our selection of toys is limited. We have two sets of toys which we alternate from month to month to help provide a bit of variety for the children.

Twice a year all the toys are given a clean and batteries are changed. If you would like to wipe a toy before/after your child plays with it, a packet of wipes is provided in the **Creche Information Box**. Wiping of toys before and/or after being played with is not expected though.

We appreciate children occasionally bang toys etc and that is fine. However, if your child for example is using a toy as a hammer (when it's not a hammer) please stop them from doing this. We understand toys will get damaged from time to time but hopefully not unnecessarily so.

If a toy is damaged or broken during creche please do not worry. At the end of creche do not pack this toy away, but leave it out. The person who picks up the creche boxes will ensure the damaged toy gets to the right person.

From time to time we do replace toys. Sometimes this is with good quality 2nd hand donations. We do have a small budget that we use occasionally to buy good quality 2nd hand toys from a charity shop. Suggestions/donations are welcome but please remember we won't always be able to accept or act upon your suggestion, often due to our limited storage space.

Please turn over for further information

At the end of creche, please put the toys away into the Black and Red Boxes.

Creche – Baby Box	Should hold toys for small babies, books and the Creche Essentials Box (see below for what this smaller box should hold)
Creche – Toddler Box	Should hold toys for toddlers
Creche Essentials Box	Should hold this sheet, a packet of wipes, the children’s Bibles, speaker (with power and audio leads)

We appreciate it’s not always possible to easily decide whether a toy is for babies or toddlers. Just use your judgement and beware that all the toys should comfortably be able to fit into the two boxes (the lids should be able to fully close)

A bible story and prayer

We do provide 2 age appropriate Bibles. We would encourage you to either individually or as a group to sit down quietly at some point to read a Bible story and pray together. Even if some of the children are very young and don’t understand any of it, it is never too early to start!

Parents/guardians are responsible for their own children

As we grow as a church, we would love to be able to provide a creche where parents can either come with their own children or leave their children with some volunteers. At this time we are not large enough to provide volunteers, so your children can only come to creche with a parent/guardian.

Usually in creche, parents do a great job of playing and watching their children. There can be time to join in with the service and/or chat with other parents. Very occasionally a church creche may have a parent and child come where the parent focuses primarily on chatting with other parents or doing something on their phone, whilst their child is left unattended for long periods. This can sometimes lead to unsafe situations or leaves other parents needing to regularly assist the unattended child. As a church, we have an attitude of loving our neighbour, but that is not the same as expecting others to be responsible for your child.

Breast Feeding

Discreet breast feeding in creche or in the main hall is absolutely fine. If you do plan to breast feed in the hall during a service, can we encourage you to sit further back to assist with the discretion!

First Aid

A First Aid box and accident book can be found at the Church Welcome Desk. If a child needs first aid:

- If there is another adult in creche who is able and willing to fetch the First Aid Box that is usually the best option.
- If you need to bring your child back into the hall to get the first aid box (even if the child is crying loudly) please do so.

And finally

If you have any suggestions on how we can improve or how we provide creche or communicate about creche (whether in this notice or with the wider church family) please do make them known to one of the Church Elders.

Thank you.

Please ensure you’ve read the information on the reverse of this page