

Bayside Kids Parent Handbook

Dear Parents,

We thank you for entrusting your very special treasures into our hands as we work together in teaching, guiding and growing the children of Bayside Church into the men and women that God has given them the potential to be.

We are excited to be on this journey with you, and fully understand our role in supporting your efforts in raising your children 'in the way that they should go.' Proverbs 22:6 "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it"

Within this handbook we hope to answer any questions that you may have regarding the ministry of children at Bayside Church. However, if you have any questions, please talk to any leaders of the Bayside Kids team or feel free to email me.

Looking forward to partnering with you,

Onida Weir
Bayside Kids Ministry Leader
oweir@baysidechurch.com.au

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The vision of Bayside Kids:

We are partnering with parents to show the children who God is and point them to His truth and light.

We do this through intentional teaching and by creating a safe and nurturing environment. We want each child to have a sense of **belonging** and acceptance that will influence what they **believe** about church, their peers and God. In turn this will influence how they **behave** and the choices they will make in the future.

Who we are and what we do..

Big Buddies

Buddies learn about the love of God through easy to follow worship, stories, craft and activities. Buddies is for walking to 4 year old kinder age and we intentionally aim to teach the children that God loves them, God made them and that Jesus wants to be their Forever Friend.

Kidz Rock

Through a fine balance of fun and real life learning we equip children in Prep to Grade 4 with tools to help them grow into complete, secure and passionate people through discovering the Bible and its Heroes together. We offer worship, teaching, offering, small group discussion and tons of games to show children that church is relevant and fun.

Intensity

Intensity takes pre-teens on a journey of discovery with God. After a powerful time of worship, our amazing leaders equip kids to bring their relationship with God into a deeper and more personal level through fun games and small group discussion. We have awesome Bible teaching, supernatural prayer and discuss many relevant topics in an age appropriate way!

What we are doing and how you can help?

We aim to come alongside you, the spiritual leader of your child and to partner with you on this journey.

One of our objectives is to reinforce your efforts in raising your children to be spiritual champions. In the same way, we too need your support in our efforts. Therefore, we ask the following:

Buddies:

- Provide a water bottle and piece of fruit each week.
- Help in the Buddies room on a roster basis.
- Ask your child about what they learnt each week and talk about the lessons.

Signing your child in/out of Buddies

- Parents are to bring their children to the Buddies room and check in on the device provided.
- Parents must collect their children within 15 minutes of the service ending and check out on the device provided.

Kidz Rock/ Intensity:

- Encourage your child to bring a Bible and offering each week.
- A healthy snack is provided for your child.
- Help in the Kidz Rock/Intensity room on a roster basis.
- Ask your child about what they learnt, and reinforce these lessons.

Signing your child in/out of Kidz Rock/Intensity

- Parents must accompany their children to the kids areas and check in on the device provided.
- Parents must collect their children within 15 minutes of the service ending and check out on the device provided.

Once a child has been collected, they are then the responsibility of the parent and are not permitted back in the kids areas.

Please ensure that children are supervised once they leave the kids areas. Children are not permitted on the stage at any time and for safety reasons running and playing with any equipment is discouraged in the auditorium.

Our Policies and Procedures

Please be aware of these procedures, and support us in them as we make a safe place for your children!

Child Safety and Protection Commitment

Bayside Church is committed to the safety and well-being of all children, who access our services, programs and activities. We are committed to the prevention of all forms of child abuse including physical, emotional and sexual abuse. We support the rights of the child and will act without hesitation to ensure a child safe environment is maintained at all times. Bayside Church is committed to ensuring best practice screening, recruitment, supervision and training processes for all staff and volunteers working directly and indirectly with children under the age of 18. Further we will seek to act immediately and appropriately when we become aware of any known or suspected incidences of child abuse according to the Child Protection Policy.

Recruitment

All staff and leaders of children must have the prior approval of the Children's Ministry Leader and have undergone a suitable screening and recruitment process including a Working with Children check. All leaders working with children also complete an online training program to ensure the safety of children as one of the top priorities. Parent helpers are not required to have a Working with Children check but should remain in the same room as their child at all times.

Sickness

The primary responsibility for the prevention and control of infectious diseases lies with the members and families that attend Bayside Church, however Bayside Kids has an important role to play in the children's areas to prevent and control the transmission of an infectious disease. Please see a list of infectious diseases/conditions and recommended exclusion periods displayed in the kids areas that applies to children as well as leaders.

An addition, leaders are trained to follow good general hygiene at all times. Leaders will call on a parent to help with any spills of bodily fluids.

Allergies and first aid

There are lists of First aid trained staff in most rooms and there are numerous first aid kits available around the building. In the event of an emergency, dependant on the severity, a parent may be called into the kids areas to assist with the first aid of their child. Bayside Church relies heavily on parents providing correct information regarding any medical needs or a medical management plan. Please ensure that your family information is up to date so that we can provide the best possible care for your child.

Evacuation

There are evacuation procedures displayed in the kids rooms. Leaders are familiar with the evacuation procedure for each room and understand that children will be their responsibility in the event of an emergency. Leaders prioritise the safety of the children in their care and the main aim is to safely evacuate and reunite children and parents at the emergency assembly points in the event of an emergency.

Filming and Photography

Bayside Kids uses footage of the children in the programs and events for promotion and in-house activities. It is advisable to notify the ministry leader if you do not wish to have your children shown in any media.

Bayside Kids Discipline procedure

There are specific room expectations in Bayside Kids to provide boundaries for great behaviour. These expectations are discussed at the start of each service and all behaviour should be measured accordingly.

1. Fair Play
2. Listening ears
3. Kind words

Sometimes further guidance may be required for children. Outlined below are the steps followed for a child who causes major disturbances in the program.

Step 1: Warning - Give the child a simple, clear warning, up to three warnings.

Step 2: Restorative practice – God's heart is for restoration and for reconciliation and that is exactly what restorative practice focuses on. The foundation is to address the behaviour and to come alongside the child to restore God's heart by building positive relationships and making the "wrong", right. When someone displays behaviour that is not in line with the expectations a leader would gently take them aside and ask the following questions:

What happened? Who was involved? What harm has been done? How can we make it right?

By doing so, leaders are addressing the behaviour and developing empathy in the child, it encourages accountability through answering the questions and reflecting on the events and it encourages the child to restore the relationship.

Step 3: Removal from activity - If the same behaviour is displayed the person will be removed from the activity so that the rest of the group can continue.

Step 4: Removal from program - Depending on the situation, a ministry leader or a parent may be called to assist at this time. (rarely used)

Step 5: Consultation and pastoral care - Private consultation with the family and suspension for a period of time. (rarely used)

Bayside Kids prays that all children have a wonderful experience in church, grow in relationship with God and grow into people of godly character.

2 Peter 1:5-7 “ For this reason make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.”