

Hey Parents!

Over the past few months we have been spending time reviewing the state of Bridgetown Kids. The focus has been trying to figure out a way of creating a team of Kids Leaders and Volunteers that creates the best environment for our kids to learn about Jesus and also how we can best equip parents to teach and lead their kids in the way of Jesus. We have come up with a Parent Serving Policy and it is laid out below.

This policy update comes from us realizing three main struggles that we are facing:

- 1. We are always short on leaders*
- 2. Parents want to serve, but can't commit to serving 2 times a month, as required for all Bridgetown Kids Leaders.*
- 3. Parents are regularly sharing with me that they have a hard time finding creative ways to talk with their kids about Jesus at home.*

With these struggles becoming more and more real, I've come up with a way that we can remedy all three of our struggles.

What we are going to do moving forward is that we are going to ask all families that have children who attend Bridgetown Kids to volunteer once a month in a classroom.

This seems like a big switch from how we've always done Bridgetown Kids, but there are a number of reasons that should lessen any stress that comes with this change. First, you aren't going to be on a schedule and there is no training. You won't be leading anything and you won't need to prepare anything ahead of time and you don't need to show up early. We still have our team of Bridgetown Kids Leaders who will be running each classroom every Sunday. You will be assisting those Leaders with whatever they need done. So, you will be in charge of prepping the craft, setting up a game, getting the snack ready, or you can simply be an adult presence during story time to help the kids focus. This is, quite simply, you going to class with your kid. You are their buddy, you are learning with them, playing with them, responding and creating with them. The only time you will be away from your child is if you are given one of the previously stated tasks to do.

It doesn't matter if you have one kid or ten kids, you will only need to volunteer one time a month, it's not a per child thing, just a baseline one time every month. Also, if you are married, only you or your spouse need to volunteer, not both of you. With that said, it could be a really cool experience for you and your spouse to volunteer together from time to time!

This is completely based on the Honor System. We won't be tracking who shows up and who doesn't, we are simply asking you to show up, once a month, on whatever Sunday works best for you and your family. This will help our team out tremendously and it will also be a cool experience for you to learn about Jesus as a family.

When you show up to your class, simply let the Host know that you are a parent and you're there to help! The Kids team already know this is rolling out and they'll know exactly what to do with you! When you check in your child, you receive a Guardian Receipt that matches your child's name tag, and is different from our Leader name tags. Please wear this name tag in a visible way so that our leaders know you are a parent of a child currently checked in. Parent's with no Guardian Receipt, or one that doesn't match their child will not be allowed to volunteer. If you and your spouse are volunteering together, you can print off multiple Guardian Receipts when you check your child(ren) in.

Our hope is that this helps our team of Kids Leaders focus on leading the lesson plan instead of doing all of the prep work in addition to leading, it will also help our classroom to stay more on task as we will have more hands helping with the different aspects of the curriculum. Lastly it is our hope that from coming in to your child's classroom you will get to see the different ways we tell the story and engage with your kids and will hopefully help those of you who are struggling to find new ways to talk about Jesus at home. One of our main focuses at Bridgetown Kids is to equip you, the parents, to be the primary spiritual authority in your kid's life. This new policy is going to go a long way in us working with you to equip you to lead your child in the ways of Jesus!

I do realize that this is a big transition for all of us to make and that we are asking a lot of you and your family. However, I think that this is going to be a positive step for our classrooms, your family, and our church as a whole.

For clarification on this policy, please contact our Kids team at kids@bridgetown.church