

Code of Conduct Policy for Children's Ministries

First Cutlerville Christian Reformed Church • 1425 68th St. SW • Byron Center MI 49315 • 531-3978

We are pleased to have your child as a participant in our ministry! Whether you are a member of First Cutlerville, our guest, or a volunteer, our Children's Ministry Code of Conduct Policy is based on the expectation that all children conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner during all activities (i.e. riding in vehicles, at restaurants, on retreats or service projects, at all church events) to provide a safe environment for the other children.

Parent(s) are asked to read the policies of conduct, commit to talking with their children about them, and promise to support the staff when these policies and procedures are administered.

In this church we DO:

1. Listen carefully, speak graciously and act with respect
2. Take turns and cooperate with each other
3. Participate in group activities
4. Include people, especially newcomers, in our activities and conversations
5. Reserve our running, skipping, jumping, and loud play for outside
6. Share toys, play equipment and snacks
7. Take a time-out and/or talk with an adult when frustrated or angry
8. Ask adults for help
9. Help make a fun, safe, sacred place for everyone

In this Church we DO NOT:

1. Disrupt our group or another group with noisy, distracting, uncooperative behavior
2. Cause physical harm to others
3. Throw anything at anyone
4. Yell, shout, or use disrespectful behavior
5. Threaten others with our words or actions
6. Stand or jump on tables or other furniture
7. Damage church property, the grounds, or things belonging to others
8. Leave the group, or group meeting space without permission

Failure to comply with this *Code of Conduct Policy*

When the rules are not followed, one could expect one or more of the following consequences to help improve behavior and keep the activity and the church a safe, sacred place for everyone.

Leaders may...

1. Give a firm but gentle verbal reminder of the appropriate behavior to be followed
2. Ask the child to move to a different seat, area, or activity
3. Give a firm but gentle warning to stop the current, inappropriate behavior
4. Have the supervising adult talk to the child about appropriate and inappropriate behavior

5. Require the children to take a 5-10 minute time-out
6. Dismiss the child from the group; if dismissed the student will spend the remaining scheduled time one-on-one with an adult in full view of other adults leaders. At this level of consequence, parents will be informed when they pick up their child regarding the inappropriate behavior and an "incident form" will be filled out.
7. If a child's behavior continues in subsequent activities/groups, the child may be denied access to the group until a "behavior plan" has been developed with the child's parent(s), the Children's Ministry Coordinator, the leaders/teacher involved in a face-to-face meeting. Under certain circumstances, the family's Shepherd Elder may also be involved.
8. If inappropriate behavior continues, a parent may be required to be present with the child while the child participates in the activity/group and be responsible for monitoring the child's behavior.

The church leadership reserves the right to exclude and/or send home any child who repeatedly endangers the (physical, emotional and spiritual) well-being of another child/adult, disrupts the space and participation opportunities of others, and is disrespectful of the adult leadership.

If there is question or disagreement with the implementation of the Code of Conduct Policy, please contact the Children's Ministry Coordinator through the church office (616-531-3978)

By completing the Minor Consent Form, I am acknowledging having read this document.