

Middle River Baptist Church Child Development Center Program Standards

Witness – We are a ministry of Middle River Baptist Church. Our primary purpose is to be a positive witness to children, families, and the community, allowing the LORD to draw them to Himself. We will hold God’s Word, the Bible, as our authority. We will look to Jesus as our model. We seek to meet the care, education and spiritual needs of children and their families. We will model God’s love in each aspect of our program.

Relationships – We build positive relationships with children, parents, church, and community through communication, helping children make friends, creating a calm classroom atmosphere, cooperative learning, forming partnerships, and promoting self-regulation. We provide ways for the families of the Child Development Center and church membership to interact through block parties, children’s programs, and cooperative activities.

Curriculum – Our curriculum promotes emotional, physical, cognitive, social, language, and spiritual development and learning. We use the Maryland State Department of Education approved *Creative Curriculum*®, the *Maryland State Curriculum*, the *Maryland Model for School Readiness*, and *Healthy Beginnings: Supporting Development and Learning from Birth through Three Years of Age* to frame and guide instruction. Bible stories and character modeling encourage the integration of biblical principles into daily living.

Teaching – Teachers use techniques and strategies that are appropriate for the development of the group and for the individual. Biblical concepts are presented in a manner that is appropriate for the child’s development.

Assessment – Children are assessed informally through observation and documentation on an on-going basis; progress reports are completed three times per year. Assessment information is used to evaluate effectiveness of planning, to guide instruction, and to inform parents of child progress. Yearly program assessments evaluate the effectiveness of our program. We assess through staff and family surveys, checklists, and informal measures.

Health and Safety – Health and safety policies are designed to ensure a safe and healthy environment for children, parents, and staff. Appropriate cleaning and sanitizing techniques are used to insure a clean and healthy environment. Children are served a nutritionally sound and varied menu of proteins, fruits, vegetables, grains, and milk. Periodic safety inspections of classroom spaces and equipment ensure that children are safe. Our *Emergency Management Plan* is designed with one goal in mind – To ensure that the children, families, and staff are provided the safest and healthiest environment possible.

Teachers – Middle River Baptist Church Child Development Center understands that qualified and dedicated staff is the key to a successful center. Each staff member is hired to meet qualifications according to the position and in keeping with Christian faith and character. Ongoing in-service training is provided for staff, requiring more than the amount of yearly continued training required by the State for teachers and assistants. Many classroom assistants participate in the same training as teachers. Training topics vary, depending on center need. Training will cover a variety of specific topics, including: child development; health, safety and nutrition; curriculum; professionalism; special needs; and community.

Families – The parent is the child’s first and most influential teacher. Partnerships with parents empower them to be actively involved in their child’s education. Family partnerships are encouraged through volunteerism, Christmas and Easter programs, field trips, family outings, homework, etc.

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Community Relationships – We are a ministry of Middle River Baptist Church. As a ministry of the church, we involve the CDC in the community of the church. We also seek to develop relationships with business and organizations in the local and national community that develop resources for children and that advocate for children.

Physical Environment – The atmosphere of the center is cooperative and calm. Spaces, furniture, materials, and supplies are developmentally appropriate for each group. Health and safety inspections are conducted regularly to be sure equipment and surroundings are safe. Cleaning is done when children are out of the room. Playground equipment and safe surfaces provide opportunities for safe and creative play outdoors.

Leadership and Management – Policies, procedures, reporting systems, management structures, and management resources foster staff growth, clear expectations, compliance with regulatory agencies, staff stability, supportive environments, program accountability, and continuous program evaluation and improvement. Center leadership works closely with church leadership for policy, planning, and fiscal accountability.