

St. Martha's Nursery Guidelines

Thank you for considering St. Martha's Nursery for your child's care. We know that your children are God's greatest gift and we endeavor to take care of them as such!

To make sure that children, parents, and staff have the best experience and environment possible, we ask that you please read and review the following policies and procedures before dropping your child off. Thanks again!

Who may use the nursery?

- The nursery is available for all children ages **twelve months to four years**.

How do I drop my children off at the nursery?

- The nursery **opens 15 minutes** prior to regular scheduled Mass or Bible study.
- Unfortunately, due to security and congestion concerns, we have **fairly strict drop-off and pick-up procedures**. Please be aware of the following policies:
 - Only one parent (or person responsible for the child) should be in the nursery for pick-up and drop-off. This helps tremendously with congestion.
 - The person who brings the child to childcare must sign the child in. *Unless arrangements are made ahead of time, the staff will only release a child in childcare to the parent or person who signed the child in.*
 - Please try to come for your children immediately following Mass, Bible study, or the St. Martha event you attended. This helps prevent the apprehension your child feels when they are left waiting for your return.

What should I bring to the nursery?

- Please make sure that your child has all of the supplies he or she will need, including: diaper bag, pacifiers, change of clothes, and cups/bottles (water only). Wipes are provided, but *please inform the staff of any allergies*.
- Also, please see that items belonging to your child are properly labeled.

What should I NOT bring to the nursery?

- **Avoidable germs.** We try our best to keep our nursery as germ-free as we can. Accordingly, *please wash your child's hands before drop-off*.
- **Medications.** We do not administer *any medications* and require that you not bring them into the nursery. Please plan accordingly if your child needs to receive a medication during the time he or she is in our care.
- **Personal toys.** We have plenty!

When should I NOT bring my children to the nursery?

- Please do not bring your children to the nursery for any of the following reasons:
 - if the child has had a fever within the past 24 hours;
 - any of sign suggesting severe illness, including: fever, lethargy, irritability, persistent crying, signs of difficulty breathing or other manifestations of possible severe illness;
 - vomiting or experiencing diarrhea in the previous 24 hours;
 - mouth sores associated with drooling unless deemed noninfectious by your physician;
 - eye drainage or redness that could possibly be considered conjunctivitis (“pink eye”) at this time;
 - head lice or scabies;
 - chickenpox, measles, mumps, tuberculosis, pertussis (“whooping cough”), and Hepatitis A until deemed noninfectious by your physician;
 - Impetigo, until 24 hours after the treatment has been initiated;
 - strep throat, until 24 hours after the treatment has been initiated; and
 - any unidentified rash that could possibly be contagious.

- The above are based on recommendations by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Out of respect to the other parents and children using the nursery, please be vigilant in helping us to maintain the healthiest environment possible.

How does the nursery staff keep the nursery clean?

- Frequent hand washing is required of our staff and hand sanitizer is available for adults in each room. (The nursery staff washes their hands each and every time they wipe a child’s nose or their own.)
- All surfaces in the nursery are routinely disinfected with a nontoxic, germicidal spray.
- All open wounds will be cleaned and covered by an adhesive bandage.
- All children will be changed as needed. The changing table is equipped with disposable paper to help prevent the spread of germs. Staff members also always wear latex-free gloves when changing a diaper.

What are the nursery food policies?

- *We do not provide any food* during your child’s stay in the nursery.
- We request that you likewise not bring any food into the nursery.