

Children's Policy

Of Taupo Baptist Church

Taupo, New Zealand

Police Vetting-

- ◆ Taupo Baptist Church has a commitment to the health and safety of those most vulnerable. Therefore a police check is to be carried out for every employee and volunteer working directly with children and young people. This is to be repeated every 2 years.
- ◆ Given the responsibility of leadership over these ministries, we also recommend that Pastoral leaders are police checked before being engaged, and that this is repeated every 2 years.
Other roles within the church should be police checked at the discretion of the church leadership.

Standard of Conduct of Workers-

- ◆ Children attending our Children's ministry programmes will not be subjected to any form of corporal punishment, solitary confinement or immobilization. Every child will be given positive guidance directed towards promoting appropriate behaviour having regard to the child's stage of development.
- ◆ Adult Visitors: Leaders will find out who they are and why they have come before permitting them entry. They will be kept in view for the duration of the visit.
- ◆ Leaders are to remain aware of the whereabouts of other leaders and avoid being alone with a child unless in full view of another adult.

- ◆ Toileting of children in crèche is to only be done by the parent. If children in the pre school programme need assistance with toileting, it should only be done with the parents prior approval. The child will be taken to the female toilets by a female and all toilet doors are to remain open at all times.
- ◆ All crèche and pre-school children are to be signed in and signed out of the programme by the same parent, unless prior arrangement is made. Primary age children are signed in to the programme, and are not to be removed during the programme by anyone else, unless prior arrangement is made
- ◆ No one should ever touch the area of the body normally covered by swimming togs except a medical practitioner doing a medical examination or when young children need assistance with bathing or toileting.
- ◆ Have respect for the children's personal space. Don't take it for granted that it is acceptable for an adult to touch a child without permission. This particularly applies to adult initiated hugs.
- ◆ When doing home visits or counselling ensure that another person is present or close by.
- ◆ All leaders of crèche, and children's ministry must be approved of by the Children's ministry leader and Church Care ministry leader before taking any leadership position.
- ◆ Parents are encouraged to visit freely and be involved in sessions as often as they like. If they have any concerns they are encouraged to make these known to the supervisor who will ensure the matter is investigated and acted on.
- ◆ Except in emergencies or planned events children will not be taken out of the church grounds, without parent's prior knowledge and consent.

FOR ANY ACTIVITY OFF-SITE-

- ◆ A Risk Assessment plan must be prepared by the Children's ministry leader and signed off by the Senior Leader before children are taken off-site;
- ◆ Ensure that the above conduct is adhered to;
- ◆ Ensure that there is sufficient ratio of leaders to children on outings and camps;
- ◆ Ensure that you are never alone with a child in their bathroom, bedroom or bunkroom;
- ◆ Children of the opposite sex should not share a bedroom after the age of five;
- ◆ Do not permit children to get into bed with leaders or with one another;
- ◆ Do not permit anyone to be outside the bedroom or bathroom in underwear;
- ◆ Require any visitors to report to the camp or programme Director immediately on arrival. Visitors should be informed of camp rules.