

# Hopetots

## Infant to Three Ministry (Formerly the Nursery)

**Our mission is to share God's love and His truth with infants and toddlers through fun and interactive songs, games and activities using a special curriculum geared to meet their needs.**

***“Encouraging all children to know the love of Christ”***



## **General Information**

The first three years of a child's life are very crucial in the development of the child. Major developments take place physically, mentally, emotionally, socially and spiritually. In addition to satisfying baby and toddler physical needs, the Hopetots staff and volunteers are excited to respond to the great potential of "the most formative years of life" and satisfy some spiritual needs as well.

We hope this brochure will answer most of your questions and introduce you to the policies we have put in place to safeguard all of the children in our care at Hopetots. Our purpose is to encourage all children to know the love of Christ!

Please take the time to read the following guidelines. Your understanding and cooperation are deeply appreciated.

## **Hopetots Team**

The goal of Hopetots is to offer quality care for your child while you attend church services or volunteer. Our team consists of at least one Lead Teacher in addition to one or more adults or youth volunteers.

The Hopetots team is trained to be familiar with the nursery facilities, childcare policies and child safety. They all strive to make your child's earliest church encounters loving and nurturing experiences. They have all passed a background check if over 18.

Family members of children attending Hopetots (six weeks-three years) will be expected to volunteer four to five times per year. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Hopetots room and a staff member will call to help with the sign-up process.

## **Curriculum**

Curriculum for two-year-olds? Absolutely! One-year-olds? Of course! We use Orange Curriculum with our children from the time they come to us as infants until they leave us as high-schoolers. Teachers have a formal curriculum to use to help focus their praying, teaching, playing, talking, caregiving, singing and fingerplays. The main idea is NOT to "baby sit" while parents are worshipping or volunteering, but to intentionally make every moment count. We strive to share God's love and His truth with infants and toddlers.

## **Ages for Nursery**

This nursery is available for 6 weeks-3 years old during our Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services. The toys and activities in this room are tailored for children this age, including centers such as a play kitchen, reading corner and toy animals for creative play. There is also an adjoining bathroom to accommodate children who are being toilet trained. Your child will move up to the Preschool Hopekids class the September after they turn three years old.

## **Pick-Up and Drop-Off Procedures**

Each registered child will need to go through the official check-in process before entering the nursery/classroom. Also, each child needs to be dismissed according to the official dismissal process.

Check-in at a Hopekids kiosk and receive three labels.

One label (name badge) is to be worn by the child.

One label (name badge) is to be

placed on your essentials bag.

One label (name badge) is to be kept by the parent and turned in at pick-up time.

## **Tears!?!?!?!?**

The Hopetots staff are extremely experienced when it comes to comforting crying babies and toddlers. Rest assured that you will always be contacted immediately via text if your child has cried for more than ten minutes or has upset themselves beyond our ability to help them calm down.

Please give the Hopetots staff person your cell number and put your cell phone in the vibration mode. This ensures the Hopetots staff person will be able to contact you in the event you are needed for your child.

While you are always free to check on your child, keep in mind that repeatedly coming in and/or standing at the door or windows will often upset your child and others.

## **Food and Allergies**

Due to the magnitude of different allergies, Hopetots and Hopekids policy requests no food to be served.

## **Health Concerns**

Infants and Toddlers will not be permitted in the nursery if they are unwell. If a child has had a fever, vomited or had diarrhea within the last 24 hours, they are not allowed in the nursery.

## **Diapering/Toilet Training**

Our staff maintains a clean and dry diaper for your child when in the nursery. They follow sanitary protocol in diaper changing, including using a non-porous surface that is sanitized between

each changing. Please let the staff know if you have any special requests such as applying diaper rash cream or if your child is being toilet trained and how often he/she needs to be taken to the toilet.

## **Essentials Bags**

Essentials bags (diapers, clothing, etc.) should be labeled with the sticker printed at check-in. If you have any special items that your child may need, please point them out to the Hopetots staff.

Your essentials bag may need to contain the following items:

- a. All items required for a change (diaper, creams, ointments, salves, wipes, etc.)
- b. Extra diaper(s)
- c. Bottle/formula, or cup if needed
- d. Pacifier (clip on type is preferred) or other item your child may find comforting
- e. Change of clothes

Please do not bring toys, books, candy, gum or other personal items. Nursery staff will not give any of these items to your child if they are in the essentials bag.

**Hopetots will follow the same schedule as Hopekids. Both ministries will follow weather cancellations made by Fargo Public Schools.**



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**For questions, please contact:  
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