

# NURSERY GUIDE

**10 IDEAS**  
TO MAKE YOUR  
CHURCH NURSERY  
MORE ATTRACTIVE  
TO VISITORS

***THE CONCERNS  
OF FIRST TIME  
MOMS***

**WHAT DOES  
A SUCCESSFUL  
CHURCH NURSERY  
LOOK LIKE?**

**4 THINGS  
NOT TO DO!**



# Nursery

The Church Nursery is one of the most important ministries in the local church. Imagine being a young mom and having a room that is environmentally safe and clean—with an atmosphere of love and laughter for young children so they may experience the love of Christ. What makes a great nursery? What are visitors looking for in a church nursery? What are parents looking for?

## Latest and Greatest Curriculums

### [Gospel Light](#)

These 2 easy-to-use guides provide curriculum for 12 months! Both guides feature Bible learning themes, fun activity ideas, and simple conversation ideas to help teachers connect activities with key Bible truths.

Cost: Free First Lessons

- Complete Kit - \$139.99
- 2 reproducible teacher's guides with CD-ROMs
- Nursery Smart Pages* (with safety tips) to help you organize a quality nursery
- DVD of training video and resource materials for volunteer training
- Nursery Posters* pack with 12 photo posters and 12 Bible story posters
- 2 sets of *I Love to Look!* Bible story picture cards (12 cards per set)
- Reproducible *I Love to Sing!* CD with 42 short, easy-to-sing songs



### [Faith Weaver by Group Publishing](#)

**FaithWeaver NOW®** was developed by today's Sunday school teachers; it was examined by real ministry leaders and tested and approved by thousands of churches so that you get great lessons that work with today's families.

Remember when kids didn't have so many distractions (sports, phones, video games)? And when families made church a priority and came every Sunday? You need a Sunday school that is "NOW" and not "THEN."

- **NOW** kids will love coming to Sunday school. Watch them grow in their relationship with Jesus!
- **NOW** busy families will grow together in faith. They'll explore the same Bible passage in age-appropriate ways.
- **NOW** you'll have a strategic plan to reach today's families.
- **NOW** teachers will thank you for choosing Group Publishings' new Sunday school curriculum. The perfect balance between low-prep for their busy lives and foundational Bible lessons...**WOW!**

Cost: \$51.29 per quarter





### [Sunlight Kids](#)

Take your nursery beyond babysitting with Sunlight Kids. Since infants and toddlers are constantly absorbing bits of information, Sunlight Kids uses the best method of teaching for these little minds: repetition. Every month, kids discover a foundational Bible story that reinforces a timeless truth from God's Word. Then that truth is repeated again and again through songs, guided play times, and activities that are perfect for their level of development.

Sunlight Kids is flexible enough to suit your needs. Use it once a week or multiple times a week.

The Sunlight Kids Kit includes 12 months of reusable curriculum:

- Lesson Books for January through December
- Student Activity Book (order one for each child)
- Bible Visuals and Posters
- Coordinator CD-ROM
- Music CD
- Beamer Duck Puppet
- Sunlight Kids T-shirt
- 13 Plastic Storage Folders
- Sunlight Kids Stamp
- Preventing Child and Substance Abuse



Birth to age 3

Kit Cost: \$124.99

Ala Carte Cost: Varies

### [Life Church](#)

Life Church is a large multi-site church that provides all of their resources for free. Check out their webpage and find videos designed for children—from birth to four years old.

Cost: Free

## **More**

### [What does a Successful Church Nursery Look Like?](#)

1. Church-wide Support
2. Dedicated Caregivers
3. Regular Attendance
4. Bible Stories
5. God is Glorified

## 10 Things to Make Your Church Nursery More Attractive to Visitors

1. Make a Great First Impression
2. Have an Organized Check-in Process
3. Have a System for Taking Special Requests
4. Look at Your Space From a Visitor's Point of View
5. Define Your Nursery's Age Range
6. Have a Sickness Policy
7. Run Background Checks on Volunteers
8. Keep Childcare Necessities on Hand
9. Show That the Church Nursery is More Than Just Childcare
10. Stay Connected During the Week

## 4 Things Not to Do

### What Does a Successful Church Nursery Need?

1. Welcome/Entrance Area
2. Nursery Staff
3. Diaper Changing Station
4. Reading and Play Area
5. Safety
6. Cleanliness

### New/First Time Mom

It's important to remember that, when a mom drops off her baby in the nursery, she wants to know that everything is going to be covered—just as if she were present the entire time. If that assurance isn't given within moments of arriving at the nursery check-in, mom will not leave her precious bundle of joy.

1. Mom needs to feel like there is competent staff, not children watching her baby.
  2. Mom needs to know that there are toys appropriate for her child and that the staff knows what those are.
  3. Mom needs to know that her baby is safe and secure. No one will be able to walk by or come in that could harm or take her baby. She also needs to know what snacks, if any, will be available to her baby and that you are aware of her baby's allergies.
  4. Mom needs to know that if you or her baby needs her, that there is a way for her to be contacted.
  5. Mom needs to feel like you asked enough questions to get to know her.
  6. Mom needs to know that she received all the information you could give her.
- Inform, Inform, Inform!

### 9 Ways to Ease Separation Anxiety in Your Church Nursery

Separation anxiety is a normal stage of behavioral growth in toddlers, and it arrives at different ages for all children. Some toddlers may be fine when saying goodbye to their parents for months but suddenly become terrified at the thought of Mom or Dad leaving.

1. Encourage parents to say goodbye and leave the room.
2. Distract the child with a special toy or book.
3. Hold the child and sing to him if he's especially upset.
4. Maintain eye contact and speak softly to the child.
5. Ask parents to "lay low" if they come back to check on their child.
6. Have parents reassure their child that they'll return.
7. Discourage parents from prolonging goodbyes or sneaking out when the child isn't watching.
8. Be considerate of parents; often they struggle with the separation more than their child does.
9. Have parents explain that they'll be leaving, but they'll return shortly.

### [A Safe Nursery](#)

AG Financial has some suggested safety protocols.

1. Ensure proper screening of all workers. This is the single most important safety measure you can take.
2. Use a secure check-in system. Computerized systems are convenient and can provide a range of safety features such as unique security codes for each child that are newly generated each time they are checked in.
3. Have a procedure for communicating with parents as needed during services.
4. Only allow screened workers to enter rooms, with the exception of nursing mothers when a parent or guardian has been called to assist with a child.
5. Install video cameras.

For more suggestions [click here](#).