

Quest Kids

Handbook for parents and caregivers

Quest Mission

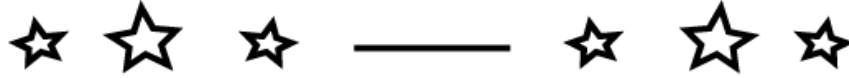
Love People Wholeheartedly. Love God Boldly. Make Disciples Faithfully.

Quest Kids Vision & Purpose

We are a family ministry that is multi-ethnic, all abilities, and intergenerational ministry to and with children. We seek to journey together to be transformed by God's spirit as we follow Jesus and grow in discipleship. We are a diverse body, each created in God's image and designed to worship God and be valued, and to have place and presence in the church community.

We believe that a child's spiritual formation begins at home, and that it is the role of the church to assist parents/guardians in raising children to know and live for God. We are committed to each child's spiritual growth throughout all aspects of our ministry. We provide a safe and nurturing environment with a structure of safety policies and volunteer accountability.

Through music, Scripture, prayer, fun and relationships, we hope to ignite a deep love for Christ in each child we serve. In teaching the message of God's love, salvation through Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit, we help kids recognize their place in the Big God Story. Quest Kids seeks to love God, love other people, and pursue reconciliation in the world.



A note to parents and caregivers

The spiritual formation of children is top priority. Our main hope is that each parent and caregiver feels equipped to invest in the life of his/her child. We want each child to experience the overwhelming love of God, grace extended to them through Jesus, and to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to worship and serve in the church as disciples of Christ.

Every family who calls Quest home should be serving regularly in some capacity. Ministry to and with kids requires many youth and adults walking alongside kids each week. Come be a part of and witness the great work God is doing at Quest Kids.

Here are some ways you can use your gifts and talents to serve:

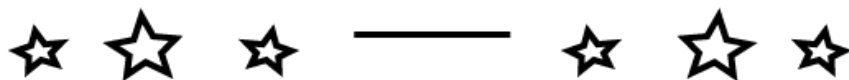
- Host and serve in family check-in.
- Serve as a small or large group leader to teach scripture and lead crafts and activities.
- Provide administrative support during the week.
- Coordinate family activities and facilities support (i.e. quarterly cleanings, classroom design/organization).

We recognize that there are seasons in a family's life that might make it difficult to serve (birth of a baby, family difficulties, etc). We also know that there are ways that you can serve that may not be listed above. We are excited to discuss those ways, as well.

Come join us!

With love and anticipation of all God is doing, and will do through this beloved community,

~ Quest Kids Staff



Sundays

- Sunday Services 9am and 11am
- Kids Ministry at both services for babies, 3 months through 5th grade
- Childcare is offered *after* church for some classes and gatherings

Family Worship Sunday

The first Sunday of each month, children age 4 years through 5th grade worship with their parents (at all services). On Family Worship Sundays, Check-In should be done at the start of service. Children 3 months through 3 years are to be picked up at the start of communion. Children 4 years through 5th grade will be brought back to the sanctuary by their Quest Kids Leaders, where parents meet them to partake in communion together.

*** PreK/Kinder kids with sensitivity to loud music are welcome to be dropped off in the 3's classroom at start of service.

Security & Family Check-In Process

All families check-in upon arriving. They receive a 3-digit code that matches their child(ren)'s nametag(s). The parent/guardian MUST present this code to the classroom/small group leader when picking up his/her child(ren). While pagers are available upon request for Nursery and Waddler parents, text paging is an option for all parents through our computer check-in system.

After service, families are to be mindful of where their children are while fellowshiping with others at Quest. Please note: some areas of the church are off limits to children (stage and backstage hallways).

Families of Children with Special Needs

All families are welcome at Quest. We look forward to helping all families integrate into the life of the church. The Quest Kids staff is available to families of children with special needs to ensure the best care possible. Special Buddies are also available upon request. Contact: Pam Christensen | pam@seattlequest.org

Environments

Nursery, Waddlers, Toddlers (3 months to 2 years)

Babies and toddlers are welcomed into fun and safe classrooms focused on playing together and relationships. Our little ones experience God through play, music, Bible stories, and important truths like *God takes care of me, God is with me, Jesus loves me, and Jesus is my friend.*

Preschool, PreK, Kindergarten (3 to 6 years)

Preschool and PreK/K classes use TruBlessings & TruWonder curriculum. Through play, storytelling and other activities, children explore the Bible as the “Big God Story”, and learn that they have a place in the Big God Story, too! Teachers and classroom assistants engage kids on a variety of levels through play, music, Bible stories, and friendship building. HomeFront is our take home resource providing families an opportunity to teach the Bible story that kids will explore the following week.

Grade School (1st to 5th Grade)

In Grade School, kids divide into small groups by grade; participate in large group activities- worship, prayer, Bible stories, worship response; and end with small group time in classrooms. Small group leaders focus on helping kids engage in meaningful discussion and activities, and games that connect children to God’s word, and a life of following Jesus. HomeFront is our take home resource providing families an opportunity to teach the Bible story that kids will explore the following week.

Keeping Kids Safe

Our Commitment to Child Protection

It is our hope and purpose to provide a safe environment for children where they can learn, discover and grow in their knowledge and love of God. We will take the appropriate steps to ensure Quest is a positive experience where children are free to be themselves and enjoy, explore and be nurtured in their spiritual formation.

Screening Volunteers

All Quest Kids & Family Ministry volunteers must have attended Quest for 4 to 6 months, attend worship at Quest regularly, fill out KidMin Leader Application, and complete a national background check.

Safety and Accountability

Adult to Child Ratios: 1:2.5 for Nursery, 1:4 for Toddlers, 1:7 for Preschool, PreK, & K, 1:10 for Grade School.

Two Adult Rule: We strive to have 2 adults in all classrooms, regardless of class size. As this is not always possible, the service supervisor is mindful to check regularly on these classrooms.

Open Door/View Policy: Classrooms have an unobstructed window or part of a door open to maintain a view into each classroom. Infant changing tables are kept in full view of the room. When speaking one on one with a child, Quest Kids leaders do so in open view of other leaders or church staff.

Photo Permission

The general understanding is that all church activities may be taped and photographed for church uses. Entry into any church building constitutes consent to be photographed or taped for church purposes. However, when a family becomes regular attenders at Quest, they will be asked to sign a photo permission form which is stored for multi-purpose use for Quest photos and social media. Names are never used and children are not tagged on social media sites. Any family can opt out of consent at any time with an email or note to a Children's Pastor or Director.

Emergencies

If there is an emergency that requires leaders and children to evacuate, *the leaders will be responsible for taking your children to safety. They will gather in OfficeMax's parking lot on the eastside of 14th Ave NW. This is where parents will meet their children.* Quest Kids and Family Ministry volunteers are trained in earthquake, fire, and lockdown procedures.

Wellness Policy

We encourage sick children and Quest Kids volunteers to stay home. A more detailed explanation of our illness policy is posted in all early childhood classrooms.

Reasons your child should stay home:

- fever of 100 degrees or higher
- non-clear drainage from the eyes or nose
- pink eye- unexplained itchiness/redness of the eyes, with discharge
- symptoms of pain (a child complaining or showing physical signs such as holding their head, etc.)
- diarrhea or vomiting
- unexplained rashes (possible chicken pox, fifth disease, etc.)
- lice

Allergies

Each of our classrooms is a nut-free zone. We are happy to work with families to make sure there are safe foods available for their children in their classrooms. Parents are responsible for letting Quest staff and volunteers know about their child's allergies. They must be sure to mention all allergies to the child's classroom teachers. "I have allergies" stickers are available. In addition, parents can add allergies to their child's profile in CCB. Allergies are indicated by white print on a black background on the child's printed nametag. Children can grow out of allergies. If a child's allergies change, they are to let the teachers know. We cannot accept a child's word that they are now allowed to have an item to which they were previously allergic.

If a child has emergency medication for severe allergies/ asthma that needs to stay with the child, please notify the teacher. An Emergency Medication Form is required. These forms can be found at the hosting station or in the classrooms. Teachers will store medications out of reach of children at all times.

Service Animals in Quest Kids

A Service Animal is any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Emotional support animals, therapy dogs and comfort animals are not service animals. Permission must be given by a Quest Kids Staff person before an ESA may enter any classroom or children's ministry space. ESA's will be given permission on a case by case basis.

Service Animals are welcome to join their handler while volunteering or attending classes in Kids Ministry. Service Animals will be required to follow standard ADA requirements. Families and volunteers will be notified of the presence of service animal, before the volunteer begins serving or child begins attending class. We will be mindful of life-threatening allergies and will do our best to meet the needs of all involved.

Ministry to Parents and Caregivers

Baby Dedication and Baptism Class

This class is offered several times a year for parents who want to dedicate or baptize their young one. Dates for classes can be found online.

Esperanza

This weekly moms community group meets on Thursdays from 10-12 during the school year. Esperanza is a fellowship group that focuses on a theme each quarter for personal growth. Childcare is provided, with small quarterly fee.

New Parents' Class

The New Parents' class meets for 8 weeks at a time, and is great for first time parents of a newborn or infant, or in preparation for parenting. A range of topics is discussed, such as baby development, sleeping and eating, and parent self care.

Foster & Adoptive Families

This is a community for foster/adoptive families and those working with foster/adoptive families. Gatherings vary throughout the year.

Moms in it Together (MIITs)

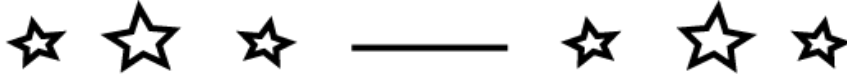
MIITs is a community for Quest moms with children with special needs, meeting quarterly on Saturdays. Email Pam Christensen for more information.

Community Groups (C-Groups)

We encourage all families to get involved in a C-Group in their local area. C-Groups are a great way to engage the whole family in relationships with other believers, provide opportunities for the family to serve together, and deepen the life of worship in our church through intergenerational connectedness.

Parent Classes & Milestones

We regularly schedule a variety of classes to equip, inspire and support parents and caregivers in the parenting journey and spiritual mentorship of their children. Topics including scripture reading, believer baptism, spiritual gifts, and more. Learn more about milestones online: <http://www.seattlequest.org/milestones>.



Seasonal Calendar

Specific dates are set for all Quest Kids events on a quarterly basis. In general, here are some of the events and classes to look forward to each year.

Ongoing Classes & Events

Quest Kids New Leader Training
Keeping Kids Safe Workshop
Faith and Race classes for kids, parents & volunteers
Baby Dedication & Baptism Class
Kids Baptism Class
Parents' Days
Milestones- Spiritual Formation for kids and Parenting Classes

Fall

Community Groups launch
All Grades Move Up
Fall Fest
Family Service Opportunity
Blessings Bags for The Bridge Care Center

Winter

Kids Christmas Special (activities vary)
Family Advent Worship Practices
4th & 5th Grade Overnighter

Spring

Spring Community Event
Family Lent Worship Practices
Family Service Opportunity

Summer

5th Graders Move up
C-Play Summer Community Groups launch
Cascades Camp - Summer Camp (dates vary)
Backpack Drive

Quest Kids Staff

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