



The following article is by Suzanne Matthews, mom of four fun kids, an educator at Abiding Savior Preschool, and wife to Frank Matthews our Associate Pastor. We draw from her experience as a teacher who helps parents smoothly drop off their preschoolers, and her personal experience as a mother.

Ideas for Checking-In Your Kids

by Suzanne Matthews

As a mom, I have seen the different reactions that my children have had as they have entered various classrooms at church and school. I have had the spectrum of reactions from one child who could walk into any classroom and be content from an early age to children who have been more timid with the acclimation to new places and people.

Now, as a preschool teacher, I am often asked what are the best ways to drop off a child in my classroom by the parents of little ones who may have a difficult time entering. There are many reasons that a child might be timid to leave their parent: anxiety without the parent, more timid to warm up to new environments, or the child doesn't like change, etc. But, there are some standard ways that we, as parents, can aid our children as they come into any classroom whether it is in a school or in our church.

- Prepare your child prior to coming in the building that you are dropping him/her off and that you will pick up your child as soon as the class is over. Make sure you do as you have said and return promptly as they will learn that you will do as you have said in the future.
- Make sure you know the protocol of how to check in your child so that the process is streamlined and there is little confusion at the door.
- I'm a firm believer of the "Band-aid" method – this is my terminology for making the goodbye quick and painless. Just as band-aids hurt less when pulled off quickly rather than slowly, leaving quickly rather than lingering in the classroom allows the teacher to step in and help the child transition to his/her class.
- This is not to say that you can't say goodbye. Smile at your child and tell them you will return. Hug/kiss them, just make sure this process is not long as it can create more anxiety in the child. (1 minute should be sufficient)
- Trust the teachers that God has put into place in our church. These women and men are trained to care for and teach our children.

I hope these tips help each of you as parents or teachers to help our children feel confident and ready to learn more about our Savior in our classrooms!

Spotlight on Operation Christmas Child



Parents be watching for our Fall Service Project! Operation Christmas Child is going to be bigger and better than ever before. Join us as we have a family event on November 12 to serve children in need in other countries. Children's Ministry will be partnered with Missions and other ministries to make it an all church event. Be looking for details to come.

Get Out - N - Serve!

On **September 24** Christ Community will flood Gainesville with hearts to serve. Please let us know where you plan to serve:

1. Gainesville Community Ministry: Unload a semi-truck of crated food items for Angel Food Ministry 9:00-1:00PM. Meet at The Vineyard Church 3536 NW 8th Ave. Bring your own water & snacks. Middle-School through Adults needed. Sorry no young children.
2. Arbor House: Outdoor cleaning & yard work 8:30AM-Noon. Meet at 13th St. Wal-Mart parking lot at 8:30AM to car-pool. Bring rakes, gloves, buckets, yard tools, etc. Children 4 yrs and older welcomed to help.
3. Christians Concerned for the Community: Building a wheelchair ramp. Bring hammer, gloves, & tool box! Children 9 yrs & up welcomed to help. Meet at 8:00AM. Location TBD
4. Assisting Christ Community Families: Various home repairs & projects. 8:30AMNoon. Bring rakes, yard tools, gloves, buckets, etc. Meeting at various locations to be assigned next week.
5. Christian Study Center: Gardening & tree trimming. Repair of broken tables legs. Meet at the Study Center, 112 NW 16th St. 8:30AM –Noon. Close to campus. Bring work gloves, yard equipment and toolbox for indoor repairs. Children 9 yrs & older welcomed to help.

CCC T-Shirt Sale!

If you have always wanted one of our Christ Community T-shirts, now is your chance! We will be doing a sale of shirts to raise funds for our Operation Christmas Child Project. We will begin taking orders on September 25. Adult shirts will be \$12 and children's shirts will be \$10.



Children and Stewardship

This Fall we are starting a Capital Campaign and on October 16th there will be a special presentation for kids of all ages to learn about stewardship. Please be checking our church blog for more details.

Help your children remember their offering! We are still working towards providing Gifts of Compassion through Compassion International.



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

				1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day Church Office Closed	6 Children's Ministry Volunteer Training 6:00 pm	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Preschool Playgroup 9:30- 11:30 am	17
18 Club 45 3:45 pm	19	20	21	22	23	24 Service Projects in Gainesville all morning
25	26	27	28	29	30 Preschool Playgroup 9:30- 11:30 am	

Now recruiting volunteers for the 2011-2012 year!
If you are interested please contact
kids@christcommunitychurch.com



Get Out - N - Serve!

