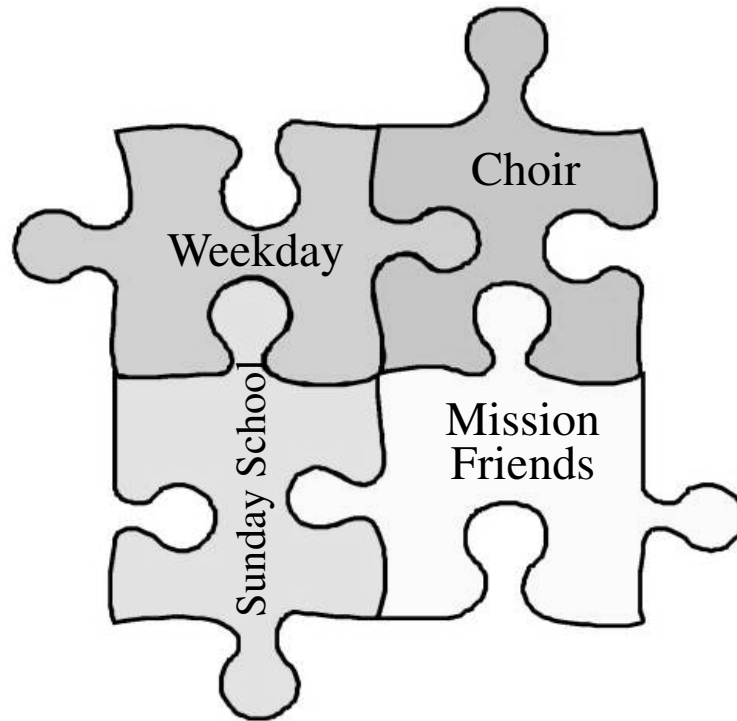


Sharing Space



**Preschool ministries working
together to make a difference.**

Sharing Preschool Space

**Working together
to make a difference.**

Welcome to the exciting world of preschool!

The task you are undertaking is an important one. At no time in life will a child learn more than during these first five years. You are helping lay the very foundation that will make a difference for a lifetime.

Because of the importance of these years, we, as preschool leaders, need to set an example for children in all that we do. This includes modeling a spirit of cooperation and sharing. We have the opportunity each time we are at church to teach our preschoolers as we work together to share space with other ministries of the church.

Through your example, you are not only impacting preschoolers, but are making a statement to their parents, as well. You are expressing to young parents the value and importance your church places on families. When they walk in to see clean, well organized and well-planned learning centers, it says, *“you are important to us.”*

But I only have a couple of things....

Because children learn best through active play, they need a well-focused and uncluttered room. When preschool rooms are designed with preschoolers in mind, they contain only developmentally appropriate furnishings. Included in these items are: preschool-sized tables and chairs, CD player, dramatic play furniture, age-appropriate blocks and art supplies which should remain in the room for all programs to use.

Other items that are specific to each program should be brought in for each individual session and then removed when that session is over. This would include things such as teaching pictures, theme-related puzzles, books, and the like.

If each program using a classroom left “just a couple of things” in the room, the room would become cluttered and less effective for teaching. The best rule of thumb is to leave the room *“just as if you’d never been there.”*

Guidelines for Working Together

- First and foremost, the room belongs to the preschoolers who use it. Always keep in mind what's best for them.
- Specific guidelines should be established and communicated to all ministries using the space.
- Schedule a meeting at the beginning of each year to allow “roommates” (all ministries using the room) to decide on a room arrangement.
- The group should decide which equipment and supplies will be left in the room (or this can be decided by the Preschool Director). All other materials should be removed at the end of each session.
- Post a room arrangement diagram in each room to remind everyone of the agreed upon arrangement.
- Locks on cabinets should not be used. This tends to bring hard feelings between “roommates.”
- Establish a method of communication among the teachers sharing the room (i.e., place to leave notes, prayer requests, information about the room, etc.)
- Each teacher leaves the room clean and ready for the next

Helpful Resources

- *Teaching Preschoolers: First Steps Toward Faith*, Thomas Sanders, MaryAnn Bradberry
- *Weekday Early Education Administrative Guide*, Bob Couch, Lois Gamble
- *Teaching in Christian Weekday Early Education*, compiled by Pam Boucher
- *Preschool Space at Church*, compiled by Theresa Thomas, Tennessee Baptist Convention website, www.tnbaptist.org, click on “Childhood” and then on “Resources.”

Bible Verses to Help Us Remember!

We work together. *1 Corinthians 3:9*

Help one another. *Galatians 5:13*

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. *Matthew 7:12*

Be kind one to another. *Ephesians 4:32*

This helpful information was adapted from the Sharing Space brochure from the Texas Baptist Church Weekday Education Association.