

Cry Room Usage Guidelines

We are happy to be able to provide this simple cry room to parents who need to quiet their child when it may be taking more than a few seconds to get them calmed down. Kids are kids and sometimes they get loud, sometimes they cry... we LOVE the sound of children but understand people's need to hear clearly with few distractions as well.

The cry room is intended to find a balance for parents who are striving to teach their children the importance of gathering together with other believers for worship. As such, here is a quick help on how to best use the cry room.

- **The cry room is not intended to be a nursery.** You should only enter the cry room with your child if your child is having a hard time remaining generally quiet (obviously some noise is expected and accepted). It should not be the first place you intend to sit each week.
- **The cry room is not intended to be a long term solution.** Once your child has calmed, you are encouraged to return to the auditorium either by sitting in the balcony or returning to the ground floor. There will be limited seating in the cry room and what is available will be geared towards helping the parent calm the child.
- **The cry room is not a playroom.** The idea of this room is to give you a place to talk with your child and help them learn. It is not simply a place where you let them play on the floor while you refocus your attention on the service. As such, there will be no toys provided in the room and anything you use of your own should be limited and intended to help calm the child.
- **The cry room will have no volunteer supervision.** The church will not be providing anyone to manage the room. You may not drop your children off in the care of any other adult in the room. One parent must be present with their child at all times while in the room. No sibling should be sent alone with a child to the cry room regardless of age. No children should accompany the parent to the cry room besides the child in need unless they are staying in the sanctuary would leave them without proper supervision.

We want to come alongside you, the parents, in your efforts to help your child learn what it means to worship and why we do it. This is an avenue we feel will aid in that goal. Overall, the best thing for your child is to learn to participate in worship by sitting amongst the congregation and observing you and other adults around them. When they behave like children sometimes do and aren't able to do that, the cry room is there to help you have a place to calm them, instruct them, and re-join the rest of the congregation.