

OUR MISSION:

To lead as many kids as possible to passionately follow Jesus.

WELCOME TO SOUTHVIEW KIDS!

Through Bible-based teaching, age-appropriate worship, and authentic relationship building, Southview Kids is a place where:

- Children are invited to pursue an authentic & growing relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Parents are encouraged & equipped to be the primary influences of their child's faith.
- Leaders are mentored and called to serve according to their gifts and passions.
- Families can go for support, in times of need.
- Kids in our community feel welcome in a safe environment that they can call their own!

CORE PRACTICES:

Each CORE Practice is exemplified by the child at their appropriate age level:

Our goal at **Southview Kids** is to see children:

1. Verbalize & internalize Remember Verses based on God's WORD
2. Model opportunities to PRAY in the classroom and at home
3. MEET together with leaders & peers to build strong relationships
4. SERVE one another in love by showing respect to leaders, peers & classroom space
5. Use Response Activities, Learning Artifacts & HomeFront Resources as a tool to TELL others about Who God Is

STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE:

A Southview Kids' Leader is...

1. Grounded in Christian faith
2. Regular in church attendance
3. Encouraging in speech
4. Evident in Christian Character
5. Responsible in leadership
6. Faithful in commitments made
7. Pure in relationships
8. Respectful of authority
9. Teachable in spirit
10. A strong partner to parents

Grade 1-4 Small Group Leader – Job Description

THE WIN

Provide a safe, fun, loving environment where kids can:

- Engage in worship
- Connect in relationships
- Discover their place in The Big God Story

What a Win looks like:

- Kids are engaged in meaningful conversations and participating in small group activities
- Kids are having fun
- Kids feel safe sharing their prayer requests with the group
- Kids leave with a blessing knowing that God loves them and cares for them
- Kids want to attend each week because they feel connected to the leader and other kids in the group
- Kids are bringing their Bibles

Qualifications:

- Leader must love kids!
- Leader must be moving towards maturity in relationship with God and others, and in their role.
- Leader is committed to Southview Kids Standard of Excellence.
- Leader must have a completed servant profile and police check on file.

Your Commitment:

- Reply to the service coordinators email that you are good to go for serving on the weekend you are scheduled by the required date.
- Arrive at the time designated by the service coordinator and stay until all your kids are checked out.
- Participate in Southview Kid's leadership vision events and training meetings.
- Learn kids' names and parents' names.
- Interact with every child in your group.
- Pray for the kids in your small group.
- Welcome new kids and families and encourage them to get connected @ Southview.
- Participate in Worship so kids want to engage
- Support the large group teacher by helping kids pay attention.
- Come fully prepared on what the small group activities are, the teaching lesson is and the questions for small group time.
- Use the provided curriculum and supplies to facilitate small group discussions, activities, and projects.
- Bless your kids – at the end of small group.
- Make a committed effort to help bring new volunteers onto our team.
- Be a Leader.
- Follow the procedures for check-in & check-out.

Our Commitment:

- Pray for you each week.
- Provide training so that you are adequately equipped to serve God in your role.
- Provide you with a clear vision for Southview Kid's Ministry and your role within that vision.
- To consistently encourage you with our words and actions.

The Benefits:

- You will grow spiritually as you participate as an active volunteer.
- You will experience the personal satisfaction of knowing you have done your best to share the love of Christ with a child and their family.
- You will make an eternal impact in the lives of children and families.
- You will be to develop meaningful relationships with other people as you serve together in a life changing ministry.

PROCEDURES

See Leader Manual

HELPFUL TIPS

Check In

- Leader hold on to the name tag book to make sure that the right grades are going into the book
- Make sure all kids have name tag on shirt and one for the leader book.
- Connect with parents if they drop off their kids.
- Look for new kids (name tag has a star, parents have an orange lanyard pager) Take some time to welcome them and invite them back.

Check Out

- Get kids to sit in the room. Leader stands at the door.
- Parents must show a parent card or a security tag. If they do not have one – they need to go down to registration station to get another printed out. (If parent card is on cell phone – we accept that)
- Parents need to initial the child's name in the leader book.
- Engage with the parents – get to know them at the door.
- Please have kids tidy the room before they leave.
- Once all the kids are checked-out from your class you are free to leave. (leave name tags and binders on the table)

Small Group Time

- Prioritize Discussion questions, prayer request and blessing. Once these have been covered then you can move into the small group activity.
- This is the relational building time you get with your kids. Be their pastor.
- Curriculum is a guideline for you to use. Come prepared with your own creative ways to teach the lesson and engage in conversation with the kids.
- Manage the kids – respect for leader speaking and for other students asking questions or sharing prayer request should be made a priority.

Prayer Request Book

- Use this book to write down prayer requests the kids have. This allows leaders the next week to follow up on the request.

Small Group Resources

- Please use the resources we provide in the room for the small group activity.

Bless

- Always spend time blessing your kids. Use the prayer or blessing in the Bless section of your curriculum. We want kids leaving knowing that God loves them and cares for them.

Lead

- You are the leader in the classroom. Please make sure that what you are doing provides a safe environment for the kids. They should not be standing on tables and doing things that are unsafe.
- Develop a couple of simple rules for your class. Respect the leader (listen) Respect each other (care for those around you) Respect the space (don't leave a mess). Help the kids follow these so that your class is a great place to be.
- Let us know if you are having issues with anything. If we don't know, we can't help.

DEVELOPMENT

Elementary-Age Kids - Thinks like a Scientist

Scientists understand the world through concrete evidence they can test repeatedly. Elementary-age kids discover how things work through repetition and clear application.

Like a scientist, they learn best when they can observe something in their present environment. The more frequently a new concept can be connected to everyday experience, the better.

KINDERGARTEN & GRADE 1

The phase when:

- Unfiltered words make you laugh
- Homework makes you cry

And life becomes a stage where you kid shouts, "Look at me."

This phase is full of personality and memorable statements.

By this age, a child can talk in sentences...and long run-on sentences, paragraphs, and wandering monologues. Sometimes it may seem if they only goal for conversation is to Just-Keep-Talking. You will be amazed and entertained by all the profound and uncensored things they say. "I'm half Irish and half human." "How did you get the wrinkles out of your hair?" "When I grow up, I'm going to have bracelets on my teeth." "You're talking so much I can't hear you."

Amid all this delightful exchange, there is one major cultural shift – School.

This means less time for play, more early morning alarm clocks, and a higher demand for focused attention. While kids at this age thrive on routine and predictability, they also crave opportunities to have a little unstructured play, a chance to skip and run, to throw and catch, and to use their imagination.

When formal education starts, so does competition for adult attention.

Where previously a kid might have been one adorable toddler drawing the attention of multiple adults, they are now in a classroom with multiple kids – some even as cute and as smart as they are. At school, at church, or on the soccer field, one thing is true: the moment you show up, they will start talking to you if they are the only one there. They want your undivided attention. They want your focus. They want your approval. So give it, as freely and as often as you can to as many as possible.

GRADE 2 & 3

The phase when:

- Fairness matters most
- Differences get noticed

And your enthusiastic kid thinks anything “Sounds like fun!”

These concrete thinkers are prime for enforcing the law in every situation.

Rules are rules. Gifts should be distributed equally. Consequences should be consistent. But now your loving child has become the heat: CSI, Nancy Drew, Barney Fife. Whatever their badge, should you deviate from these guidelines to, say, surprise one kid with a treat not given to the rest, you will find yourself quickly apprehended and convicted for offenses of unfairness.

Even though life should be fair, it’s okay that people are different.

As Grade 2 & 3 kids settle into formal education, they begin to notice (yes, even for the first time) that “not everyone is like me.” Until now, everyone was on equal footing. Seriously, what Kindergartner isn’t “the best” at everything? By Grade 2, kids take notice of qualities that make one kid athletic and another artistic, one kid blond and another brown-skinned. Expect a new world of adjectives in this phase as kids begin to tell you more about their growing social world.

Kids in this phase are a beautiful blend of capable and dependent.

It’s the golden age of childhood. NO one should have a favorite phase – especially since life should be fair – but if you like this phase a whole lot, you aren’t alone. Kids aren’t especially needy; some might even begin to stay home alone for a couple of hours without a babysitter. But they are still kids. Impressionable, enthusiastic, eager, and excited about what you are excited about. You still set the schedule, and if you think something sounds like fun you can convince them that it really is fun.

GRADE 4 & 5

The phase when:

- Friends are best friends
- Games are for competition

And this confident kid will insist, “I’ve got this.”

In this phase friends matter a lot more.

Call it a club. Call it a clique. Call it a team. A tribe mentality begins to form during grade 4 & 5. Some friends will become “best-friends” and some other kids won’t get invited to the party. If you see a grade 5 student doing, saying, or wearing something that confuses you, check out what their peers are doing, saying or wearing. Peer approval (and disapproval) is significantly motivating in this phase.

If you want to get their attention, make it a competition.

With a “lifetime” of experience under-their-belt and “no-fear” attitude, a kid in this phase is virtually unstoppable. They are ready to prove themselves, ready for the world to take notice, and they lack the self-consciousness that might otherwise hold them back or slow them down. They can’t wait to show you just how smart and fast and strong they really are.

This is the top of the elementary school food chain.

Everybody's morals are roughly aligned and their life experience is still limited enough that everything makes sense. Maybe that's why this phase usually demonstrates a clarity of mind that comes with knowing the ropes and feeling knowledgeable about what makes the world tick. Lean into that confidence and build it. Let them know you see their potential and you believe in it. There's no such thing as an overly confident middle schooler.

HOW ELEMENTARY-AGE KIDS RELATE TO GOD:

God's Story Inspires My Story

Kids who think like scientists love stories – especially those that inspire them to win at every day life. They relate to God who heals the sick, conquers evil, explains mysteries, performs miracles, overcomes death, and teaches them how to win at life.

When you **ENGAGE** their interests you help a kid trust God's character and experience God's family.

Three ideas to help Elementary-age kids mature in their relationship with God.

1. **Tell one story.** This is the age for story. Kids know the difference between history and fiction – and they obsess about what is true. They still have enough wonder to be carried away with the plot, but they are ready to discover what the story means practically and personally. Just like a scientist studies one idea at a time, kids master individual concepts at this phase. Give kids one story and connect it with one concrete idea.
2. **Use real illustrations.** Scientists like concrete evidence. They rely on what they can observe. In the same way, a kid understands what is familiar to their world. Avoid abstract metaphors. When you ask a concrete-thinking child, "Do you want Jesus to come live in your heart?", expect questions like "Where does He sleep in there?" Use visual illustrations to help kids relate to God, and look for ways to connect your illustrations to what they experience everyday.
3. **Make it fun.** No one knows how to party like a scientist. Okay, maybe this is where the analogy breaks down. But kids do love to have fun. Fun may look different for different kids. Engage their interests by adding variety to your program. Play games with movement. Use maps and puzzles. Give them opportunities to read and write. Go outside when you can – or bring the outside to into your space. Sing and dance together. You only have a limited amount of time together, so make it fun enough to remember.