

First Baptist Church
Children's Music Ministry Guidelines

One of the missions of First Baptist Church is to disciple believers and prod them toward Christlikeness and spiritual maturity. Ephesians 4 tells us that Christ gave spiritual leaders to the church "so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

This is not a goal just for the adults in our church, however. This should be the aim of ministry to our children as well. We must not encourage the so-called "generation gap" by contributing to the problem through our children's ministries. We must always be striving to "raise the bar" when it comes to the spiritual maturity of our children.

Those involved in the children's ministries at First Baptist carry a weighty responsibility—that of promoting Christlikeness and spiritual maturity in the life of every child. Children's ministry workers should realize that it falls upon them to obey the Scriptural commands to build up this group of the body of Christ. Giving the children a "good time" is not the primary responsibility of children's ministries (though encouraging maturity will often be enjoyable); there are other times for silliness and recreation. Children's ministries should be a time focused on developing maturity.

These goals apply to the music chosen for children's meetings as well. The children of our church get plenty of fun, enjoyable activities and music during the week, but what they may *not* get is music that is God-focused and that which encourages maturity and "adult" worship. Too often children view worship services to be a time for adults only, and a large part of that thinking may be due to the emphases in their children's meetings. Therefore, please follow these guidelines when choosing and leading music in children's meetings:

Goals of the Children's Music Ministry

- ⌞ Encourage fellowship among the children.
- ⌞ Teach Christian character qualities.
- ⌞ Teach Biblical doctrine.
- ⌞ Develop spiritual maturity.
- ⌞ Promote ability to worship with adults.
- ⌞ Encourage integration into adult fellowship and interaction.

Suggestions for Accomplishing These Goals

- ⌞ Though there is nothing necessarily wrong with fun songs about pigs or broccoli, Sunday is not the time to sing them. Sunday should be dedicated to singing songs with explicit biblical truth about God.
- ⌞ Songs about Christian character traits that are aimed at children are good, but the majority of music used during children's meetings should be hymns that our whole church family use.
- ⌞ Choose one solid hymn that our church regularly uses to teach to the children over a period of a month.
- ⌞ Explain any difficult words and the significance of the truth in the hymn.
- ⌞ Look ahead to what hymns will be sung in the morning service and choose several to sing with the children. Explain that these hymns will be sung in the "adult" service and that they should be participating as well. This will help them be more involved in the worship service.

PRIMARY GOAL:
***That our whole church, from the youngest to the oldest,
enjoy singing solid hymns together!***
(Ephesians 4.3)