



MOPS KIDS

## **MOPS KIDS**

*Taking care of our little blessings*

We are so glad you and your little one can join us at MOPS! This is a handbook to introduce you to the workings of our MOPS KIDS childcare program and guidelines regarding children. We aim to give your children a fun and educational time. Our program uses a faith-based curriculum, which includes character building topics and biblical lessons. Children also have the opportunity to participate in crafts, music, games, and other fun activities.

We believe that your child(ren)'s hearts are an investment, and we seek to cultivate love during our time with them. Our goal is to partner alongside parents to help children have a love for God's Word and also develop valuable characteristics that they can use for life. We are so excited to care for your child(ren) this year! Each child is such a blessing and gift!

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## **MOPS Room - Child Guidelines**

MOPS is a special opportunity for moms to have some time for themselves, to relax, to be “off duty”, and to interact with other women. This is why our MOPS KIDS program is an important part of MOPS; to give you, the mom, some time out. We want to create a distraction-free sanctuary for you. We are sensitive to mothers who are nervous about leaving their children and we will do our best to comfort and ease any fears!

### **Infants**

Small babies (up to six months) are welcome to stay in the meeting with mom until she is comfortable having him/her in the Baby Pool (nursery). Mothers are ALWAYS welcome to nurse their babies during our meetings. We encourage apprehensive moms to try the Baby Pool for babies around three months and up and see how it goes. Infants are welcome in the Baby Pool earlier if you are comfortable. By six months of age, babies should join the MOPS KIDS program, and are no longer permitted in the MOPS meeting room.

### **Children**

All children six months and up are required to join the MOPS KIDS program. We have lots of toys and activities planned for the children to help take their minds off of being away from mom (and to have some fun!). Our MOPS KIDS Day Facilitator monitors the classrooms throughout the meeting and you will be notified if your child needs you. We have a settling room and a nursing room available for you to help settle your child outside of the classroom.

### **First time leaving your child?**

If you feel uncomfortable leaving your child for the first time, you can sit in and observe the class. Please contact the MOPS KIDS Coordinator ahead of time to let us know. We will require you to stay the entire duration of the class. This is to ensure that there are as few disruptions as possible and all children remain settled.

## **MOPS KIDS Classes**

MOPS KIDS is designed to specifically care for the needs of children from birth to five years of age. Our purpose is to provide a safe and stimulating environment for each child while their moms participate in the MOPS program.

We have two classes for children:

- The Baby Pool Nursery for kids aged birth to 18 months
- Lil' Swimmers for kids aged 18 months to 5 years old

The Baby Pool is our nursery class providing childcare for our youngest ones. In an informal class setting, teachers prepare activities for the children to keep them entertained and stimulated. Lil' Swimmers, for older children, is a more formal class setting consisting of music/movement, bible lessons/story time, craft and free play. Both classes include a snack time. Please inform our helpers at registration if your child has any allergies or medical issues.

We endeavor to keep as much consistency as possible in our classrooms so that your child/ren can feel comfortable with our MOPS KIDS helpers. We have a lead teacher in each room as well as consistent ayi helpers, and other volunteers to support the classrooms.

## MOPS KIDS General Guidelines

*We want to assure you that we are taking care to look after each and every child who walks through our doors. We want to create a comfortable experience for both moms and children by providing an enjoyable and safe atmosphere for your kids. To do so, we have created some guidelines for the MOPS KIDS program.*

1. Drop off starts at 9:45am. Please check your child in at registration and note any special instructions/needs or allergies on the child's name-tag. Leave any extra items, shoes and/or strollers in the cloak room and get your child's number tags for their bag and bottle. Hand your child to his/her MOPS KIDS Room Leader at the door.
2. Please ask a Steering Team Member if you need help locating your child's class. Children are placed appropriately by age. If there is a question concerning the placement of your child, please see the MOPS KIDS Coordinator.
3. NO medications should be administered by any MOPS KIDS Teacher. If a child must have medication, it must be kept with the mom until needed and then administered by the parent/guardian at the appropriate time. (Please note the time child will be needed the medication on the child's nametag).
4. ALL children are required to bring a bottle/cup and if not yet toilet trained, diapers. Please hand these to the MOPS KIDS teacher at the door. Mark your children's belongings. In addition we will also give your child's belongings a registration number to help MOPS KIDS teachers locate each child's belongings easily.
5. We seek parents' keen co-operation to say goodbye at the door and leave immediately, even if your child is crying. The teacher and helpers will always be there to greet and receive the children at the entrance. This allows your child to establish a natural entering routine that will nurture their independence. Seeing people coming and going from the rooms also upsets youngsters. The crying usually stops quickly. If crying doesn't calm down or stop after 10 minutes we will come and get you. When you return for your child after MOPS, your child will learn that you keep your promise to come back each time. Rest assured that we will come and get you if needed. A MOPS KIDS Day Facilitator will be available at every meeting to get your child if needed.
6. In order to maintain a safe classroom environment and to avoid overcrowding, we cannot allow personal ays or mothers to join classes – with the exception of first-timers who let us know ahead of time and will stay for the duration of the class.
7. Please do not check on your children during the meetings by going to their classroom. If there is a problem, our MOPS KIDS Day Facilitator will come and find you.
8. Please do not move your child to a different class WITHOUT prior permission from the MOPS KIDS Coordinator. The number of children per classroom has been previously calculated to help accommodate your child's learning and safety.
9. Please pick up your child immediately following the close of each meeting. Sometimes even the most well-adjusted child will become fearful or anxious if he/she is left after the other children have gone.
10. Children should be fed breakfast before coming to MOPS. A small snack will be provided, but MOPS KIDS Teachers are not able to feed children meals. If your child is eating something when you arrive at MOPS, please do not take him/her into the MOPS KIDS room until he/she is finished.
11. We place importance on the health of all children. Out of consideration for other children, a child should not join MOPS KIDS if they show any signs of illness such as fever, heavy persistent cough, cold, or body aches and pains. We seek your kindest understanding and cooperation toward the above.

### **Further notes for MOPS KIDS Beijing Baby Pool**

1. The Baby Pool Nursery class will typically begin accepting newborns at three months of age or earlier if you feel comfortable.
2. Please bring a bag for your child equipped with diapers, wipes, a labeled sippy cup or bottle, extra clothes and any other comforting items - such as a favorite blanket; but please no toys. Bring a sufficient number of diapers, remembering that some days are wetter than others.
3. If an infant needs a bottle during the MOPS meeting, please note this on the child's nametag. If you are a nursing mom and are leaving your child in MOPS KIDS, please make note of this on his/her nametag. A MOPS KIDS Teacher will notify you when your baby wants to nurse or you may note the time you wish your child to be brought to you.

Thank you for your cooperation. We hope you have a great time in MOPS and your children in MOPS KIDS! If you do have any concerns or questions we would love to talk with you. Please contact Jackie Park, MOPS KIDS Coordinator, at [bringinguptheparks@hotmail.com](mailto:bringinguptheparks@hotmail.com).