

Contra Costa Gospel Church Children's Behavior Policy
For
Kindergarten to 8th grades
Date: 7/13/2012

Preamble

The Contra Costa Gospel Church (CCGC) Children's Behavior Policy is based on sound biblical principles for the upbringing of children, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6 NIV). The children's activities at CCGC, including AWANA, Sunday School, Children's Church, and Chinese School are based on imparting biblical knowledge and the formation of biblical character. This will give our children the best opportunity to become new brothers and sisters in Christ, and also good and constructive citizens of our society carrying a good testimony, which will glorify God.

Respect

Each class, younger than the 8th grade, will begin with an explicit reminder of the following principles (potentially in quiz format):

1. Respect God. (*An example of respecting God would be consciousness that when we study the Bible, we are learning what God wants us to know. Thus we want to learn as well as we can so we can please God by becoming the boys and girls God wants us to be.*)
2. Respect others (including teachers and fellow students). (*Your teachers volunteer their time in order to help you by teaching you God's Word. Your fellow students are your friends and neighbors. Respect for them means that you will treat them the way that you would like them to treat you.*)
3. Respect other people's property (including possessions of fellow students, and maintaining cleanliness and good repair of church property). (*Your parents may have to pay if you damage property belonging to the church or others.*)
4. Respect yourself. (*You are created in God's image, and you are a representative to Christ to the outside world – act like it so that others will respect Jesus.*)

For the 8th grade, the reminders will not be daily, but will still undergird our program and will be referenced when necessary.

Progressive Discipline

Every class will operate on a “progressive discipline principle.” With each successive violation, there will also be an increasing level of discipline applied. These are not rigid and inflexible rules. Appropriate application of each stage should be used judiciously and take into consideration the intent of the student, the type of action being disciplined, and whether or not there is a pattern of bad behavior. For example, if Stage 1 incidents occur infrequently with a student, even a third or fourth incident could still be covered by the Stage 1 warning period.

It is recognized that a child’s misbehavior could be a proverbial “cry for help”, and may indicate other special needs (such as, problems at home, medical/clinical issues . . . etc.). Teachers should be sensitive to this possibility, and discuss matters with a pastor if they feel that there may be underlying causes beyond youthful rambunctiousness. In addition, CCGC will make ever reasonable efforts to help train our volunteer teachers to identify such issues.

1. Stage 1 – A warning, which could be implemented by marking a student’s hand (as an example). Teachers should keep a written record of each Stage of discipline applied.
2. Stage 2 – Separation from the other students within the class (e.g., sit next to a teacher or assistant).
3. Stage 3 – Go to an adult class for the remainder of the day, plus an optional disciplinary class (if available) on the following week upon the discretion of the student’s teacher.
4. Stage 4 – Repetition of Stage 3 plus teacher will call to inform the parents.
5. Stage 5 – Parents will be required to come to class with the student for a subsequent class. Until parents are able to do so, the student will not come to class and will be required to stay with the parents.
6. Stage 6 – A pastor will call or visit with parents to discuss further measures to help the child behave well.

The disciplinary class (if available) will not be considered as punishment, but as loving reminders of the negative effects on self and fellow students of classroom disruption. They will be in discussion format with examination of the appropriate bible verses and of the application to the situation at hand. Since this

class is not expected to be heavily populated, one teacher for the class should be enough, and training will be provided to the volunteer teachers by the church.

The maintenance of adequate class discipline is dependent upon an adequate number of church volunteers to serve as teachers and as helpers in each class. The ideal requirement for each of the classes 7th grade and under is one teacher and one helper to maintain discipline, to pass out warnings and keep track of students who will be assigned to an adult or disciplinary class for that week and the optional following week. The helpers will personally escort students needing discipline to the appropriate class and turn them over to that class teacher. Students will not be allowed to wander around the church campus on their own.

Parental Involvement

Parents will be informed of the second and subsequent assignment to a disciplinary or adult class, and may be requested to sit with the child in their regular class. We welcome parental dialogue with the regular AWANA and Sunday School teachers as well as the disciplinary class teacher or pastors and ministers. We hope and expect that parents will be supportive of the church's efforts.

CCGC will make the best efforts in training volunteer teachers/helpers to provide a sound learning experience for your child. We would welcome your inputs regarding any special circumstances your child might have.