

ReRefuge Child Supervision Policy

Refuge approaches our children's programs with two main principles:

Partnership

At all times we strive to have 2 adults in each classroom. This allows the teachers to develop relationships and support each other. For example, one teacher can supervise children using the bathroom while the other teacher engages the rest of the children in an activity; or if a teacher is having difficulty with a child, the other teacher can take a turn talking to the child.

Open Doors

Parents are always welcome in the KR classrooms. They may stay and participate in activities if their child is having difficulty adjusting or if they simply wish to see what is going on that day. We also leave the top half of our classroom doors open whenever possible. The window curtains are for emergency situations only and should not be closed during regular classroom time.

Never close the door to any room if you are alone with a child unless you are their parent/legal guardian.

Each event and situation is a little different. The following are some ways that we apply the above principles:

- **Ratios** – In order to develop relationships between adults and children in the Refuge community, we strive to limit the number of children that each person supervises. This number changes based on the age of the youngest children in the group:
 - Birth – Tots: Groups of this age should be 1 adult for every 4 children (**1:4**). However, if children in the group are immobile or beginning crawlers, more adults may be needed. *ideal ratio 1:3*
 - 2 years – 5 years: Groups of this age should be 1 adult for every 8 children (**1:8**). *ideal ratio 1:6*
 - School-aged: Groups of this age should be 1 adult for every 10 children (**1:10**). *ideal ratio 1:8*
- **Teens** – Refuge is committed to building our identity in Christ for the sake of the world. This includes the teenaged members of our community. We encourage our teens to see themselves as meaningful members of our community who both benefit others and are benefited themselves when they serve others. Therefore, we provide opportunities for our teens to assist in supervising the younger children in our community. As certain teens demonstrate themselves to be trustworthy and capable in the care of younger children, we support their growth by giving them increased responsibilities with the permission of the parents of the children being cared for.
- **Small Groups** – For smaller groups or events it may be appropriate to have only one person supervising a group of children. This may occur when there is an extremely small number of children or all the children are from one or two families. In these situations, the permission of all parents should be obtained before the event. The parents should be informed of which children will be present and who will be supervising when asking for their consent.