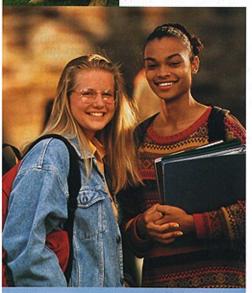






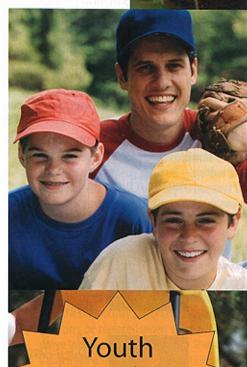
# Oklahoma Baptists Protecting Children



A PLAN FOR
PROTECTING
PRESCHOOLERS,
CHILDREN AND YOUTH
IN OKLAHOMA
BAPTIST CHURCHES

## PHASE V

(a removable supplement to the *Equipping* magazine)



Youth
Transportation
Safety
Information
Included



#### Dear Pastors and Church Leaders,

Each year highway deaths are the number 1 killer of children, 18 years of age and under, in our nation. In 1990 through 1999 over 90,000 children under the age of 20 died in motor vehicle crashes. 16,500 under the age of 10 died from vehicle crashes. That means 33 children under the age of 10 died every week in motor vehicles. 57,500 teens age 16 through 20 died in motor vehicle crashes. That means 110 teen deaths each week as a result of vehicle crashes.

These figures are astounding. Safety is a must when transporting youth and children to and from church events. We not only prevent injuries and deaths to those we minister too but we also model for preschoolers, children, youth, and their parent's vehicle safety. Therefore, I have joined efforts with Andy Harrison, Youth Ministries Specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma to write the enclosed information for your review and use while preparing for youth and children's summer ministries and activities. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Andy Harrison, Youth Ministries Specialist, aharrison@bgco.org, (405) 942-3800, ext 643 or Sheri Babb, Preschool and Children's Ministries Specialist, sbabb@bgco.org, (405) 942-3800, ext 642.

Phase V of Oklahoma Baptists Protecting Children addresses safety issues when transporting children and youth to and from church events whether they are around the block, across town, out of town or out of state. Your church is already following the guidelines set by your insurance company and Oklahoma State laws when transporting persons in church vans and buses; however, the enclosed materials are provided for you as a checklist to train or update your van and bus drivers and transportation committee prior to summer outings and yearly events.

In no way is the information provided in Phase V all-inclusive. Each church should seek advice from their insurance agency, Oklahoma State laws, physicians, and attorneys. The Baptist Convention of Oklahoma assumes no liability for reliance on information provided herein. Each church is advised to seek an attorney to review their forms, policies, and requirements for transporting youth and children.

In addition to transportation, ideas for children's summer ministries, safety for summer programs, suggestions for selecting camps, field trip tips and field trip safety are addressed. What an opportunity we have to minister to children and youth during the summer months! Let us consider it an honor and privilege to minister to children and youth and "not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:13-14).

Thank you for protecting, caring, teaching, guiding, and ministering to preschoolers, children, youth and their families.

You are a blessing!

Sheri Babb

Preschool and Children's Ministries Specialist

Church and Family Equipping Team

Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma

Andy Harrison

Youth Ministries Specialist

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Church and Family Equipping Team

Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma

If clarification on this information is desired, contact Sheri Babb, Preschool and Children's Ministry Specialist, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, 3800 N. May, Oklahoma City, OK 73112. Telephone (405) 942 - 3800 ext. 642 or email sbabb@bgco.org.

## Transportation Safety

hurch vans today are popular and practical for the transportation of church youth and children's groups. Fifteen-passenger vans present safety concerns; thus, taking certain precautions can reduce the risk of accidents, injuries and fatalities involving church vans. The following transportation safety procedures along with general safety, Oklahoma State Driving Laws, and supervision measures are strongly recommended anytime a church transports persons (children and youth) in any type vehicle.

## Prior to starting the trip...

1. Obtain completed and signed permission slips for each passenger on your trip. Make copies of the signed permission consent form, medical emergency release form, insurance forms (card), and allergy alert forms. Leave one copy in the church office, provide a copy for each vehicle traveling with a group and have the original with the leader of the group.

#### 2. Prepare a Red Cross or physician recommended First Aid Kit.

A suggested First Aid Kit contains:

- First-aid manual
- disposable (medical examining) gloves (1 box)
- □ sterile gauze squares (2" and 3")
- ☐ adhesive tape
- adhesive bandages in several sizes
- ☐ flexible roller gauze (1" and 2" widths)
- □ antiseptic wipes
- ☐ soap
- antibiotic cream (triple-antibiotic ointment)
- antiseptic solution (i.e. hydrogen peroxide)
- □ hydrocortisone cream (1%)
- eyedressing
- □ syrup of Ipecac
- acetaminophen and aspirin (aspirin is not recommended for children under age 12)
- ☐ tweezers
- sharp scissors
- safety pins
- Disposable instant cold packs
- calamine lotion
- alcohol wipes or ethyl alcohol
- ☐ small splint
- sealable plastic bags for soiled material
- ☐ thermometer
- ☐ flashlight and extra batteries

- mouthpiece for administering CPR (can be obtained from your local Red Cross)
- igspace your list of emergency phone numbers
- □ blanket (stored nearby)

After you have stocked your first-aid kits, **read** the entire first-aid manual so you'll understand how to use the contents of your kits. Store first-aid kits in vehicle in a location that is out of children's reach but is easily accessible for adults. Check the kits regularly and replace missing items or those that may have become outdated.

Leave a written transportation route on file at the church and provide one for each driver of all vehicles.

#### 4. Choose Capable Drivers

- Use capable, mature drivers of at least 21 years of age, who have experience with large vans. Driving a 15-passenger van is much different and more challenging than driving a family car or mini-van.
   Even experienced drivers
  - may not always be able to get these large vehicles back under control when driving at highway speeds.
- Restrict all drivers from using any tobacco products.
- Check and monitor all church van drivers.
   Make sure drivers are licensed and make a copy of the driver's license to keep in the church office while he or she is driving the van.
- Require drivers to review state laws and on-theroad driver training. Evaluate the driver in the vehicles that will be driven by him/her. Have a designated person from the church to

accompany driver on training and evaluation in vehicle and recommend approval by the church transportation committee.

- check the drivers once a year to see that they are medically and physically fit. Have drivers provide a physicians' statement attesting to their driver's condition.
- Check driving records. No one who has ever been arrested for DUI should be allowed to drive a church van, nor should anyone with a speeding ticket or traffic violation within the past two years be permitted to drive the church van.

- Ask drivers to provide proof of personal liability insurance before being given the keys to a church van. Even though the church will carry insurance on the vehicle, the driver should have it as well.
- Check to see that a driver has a commercial driver's license when operating a vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 26,000 pounds or one designed to transport 16 or more people, including the driver. The standard metal plate mounted on the doorframe will provide a vehicle's specifications.
  - Provide safety training for all drivers on loading, unloading and backing up a vehicle when children and youth are being transported.
  - Check state laws concerning the use and monitoring of buses and vans for transporting children and anyone under the age of 18.
  - Driver will follow written tranportation route and take no alternate routes.
  - 5. Inspect Vehicle. Before starting out on a trip, inspect the vehicle from front to back. Log the inspection in a log book and keep it in the vehicle.
    - Check brakes, lights, windshield wipers, mirrors, horn, switches, fan,

heater, air-conditioner, defroster and seat belts for functionality and signs of wear.

- Look under vehicle for any fluid leaks and under the hood for any loose wires or hoses.
- Check all fluid levels.
- □ Pay close attention to the tires. Many van rollovers are initiated by tire blowouts. Make sure the tires are properly inflated.—neither over nor under-inflated. Also, always make sure the vehicle is equipped with the proper equipment for changing the tires in case of a flat. NOTE: If the tire is mounted to the back door of the van or the front of a trailer, make sure you have the right equipment to not only mount the tire, but remove and replace it to and from its mount. Look for tread wear.

TIP: The Tire Industry Safety Council recommends that tires be replaced when the tread is worn down to one-sixteenth of an inch. Put a penny into a tread groove (where tread is lowest) with Lincoln's head upside down. If you can see the top of Lincoln's head, it's time to replace the tire. (More accurate measurements can be made with a tread depth gauge.) When you do replace tires, purchase tires that are properly sized and rated for your vehicle and load.

Vehicle is visibly marked with the name of the church or sponsoring organization.

# Transportation Safety (continued)

 Be sure all safety equipment is fully operational according to the Oklahoma Department of Motor Vehicle.

#### 6. Load and Unload the Vehicle Properly

- Do not overload the van. The vehicle may be too heavy to maneuver properly during emergencies when fully loaded with passengers and luggage. Loaded luggage racks on top of the van make controlling the van more difficult; therefore, understanding the towing capacity of a vehicle is important in the event that extra cargo space is needed for luggage or equipment. Also, keep in mind that an overloaded vehicle is more likely to cause a blowout.
- Use a passenger checklist to account for the loading and unloading of each person on each vehicle. Have another adult present during this attendance check and have them to sign their name along side yours to validate that all children and youth were unloaded, reloaded, and present in van or bus or inside building or designated location.
- Vehicle is never moved until an outside check is done to make sure there are no children in or around the bus.
- Remember supervision begins at the designated pick up point. Have adequate number of adults present when the first child or youth arrives.
- 7. Select drivers and sponsors carefully. Screen, interview, conduct background checks, and have drivers approved by your church's child protection team. For information on Child Protection (Child Abuse) request Phase II of Oklahoma Baptists Protecting Children from the Preschool and Children's Ministries Specialist, Church and Family Equipping Ministries of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, (405) 942-3800, ext. 648.

# During the trip...

1. Carry a completed and signed written permission consent form from parent or guardian for transportation of their child (anyone 18 years of age or younger) and

**for all passengers on the trip.** Sponsors and drivers need to complete all forms too. If you have more than one vehicle traveling, make sure each vehicle has a permission/consent form for ALL travelers. In case of an accident where permission slips are lost or scattered, the other vehicle(s) should have copies on hand.

2. Have medical records for each person traveling (including drivers and sponsors) and permission

for emergency medical treatment on each person (children and adults) in each vehicle.

#### 3. Vehicle Operation.

• Review safety rules with passengers before moving

the vehicle off the church parking lot or pick up point.

- Wear seat belts at all times. Stress that everyone will remain in their seats at all times with seatbelts buckled.
- Refrain from loud and disruptive behavior throughout the trip.
- All parts of the children and youth bodies remain in the vehicle at all times. No body parts should extend out from a window of a vehicle.
- 4. Foods are kept at a minimum.
- 5. No tossing any objects from person to person at any time.
- Require all passengers to remain seated at all times and eliminate distracting activities.
- Lock doors of the vehicle and keep them locked while vehicle is moving.
- Require the driver and all passengers in vans
  to wear seat belts (federally approved, installed
  according to manufacturer's instructions, properly
  maintained, and properly anchored to the vehicle).
  Those who don't are more likely to be ejected
  from the van during a rollover, and those ejected
  tend to suffer the most serious injuries and
  fatalities. Check Oklahoma state laws for guidelines on requirements for passengers—adults and
  children. Make sure children who are being
  transported in a passenger car, station wagon,
  van bus or truck are properly secured in a child
  restraint system (car seat) or seat belt. However,
  buses with a capacity of 10 or more passengers

that meets state and federal requirements for school buses are exempt from this requirement.

- Monitor all gauges regularly, listen for unusual noises and be aware of changing driving conditions.
- 5. Have two drivers and take frequent breaks to avoid fatigue on longertrips.
- 6. Maintain constant adult supervision while traveling and while on field trips, at camps, or designated event. Provide at least two sponsors or adult supervisors with the children or youth at all times. If your passengers are children, a second or third adult depending on

the size of the group is important for supervision purposes. No adult should be left alone with the children or with a single child. Vans with children need to provide one adult for every five

> younger children and one to eight for older children. This allows for closer supervision and monitoring.

> 7. Vehicles containing children or youth should never be left unattended.

- Travel with a cellular phone and emergency phone numbers.
- 9. Obey posted speed limits.
- 10. Use defensive driving skills: keep your eyes moving; be courteous to other drivers; use caution; plan ahead; maintain proper following distances; be prepared for the unexpected.
- 11. Prohibit the use of tobacco products at any time.
- 12. Keys are never left in the vehicle or ignition.

## After the Trip...

- 1. Have the driver leave the children and youth only at designated drop-off point and with the person designated by the parent for pick up.
- Parents or a designated person should sign a release form which states they have picked up their child/youth and the time the pick up occured.
- 3. Driver will return the vehicle to the designated location and follow the church policies for returning a vehicle and signing off with the designated church staff person.

### Web sites to check

National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care: www.nrc.uchsc.edu/Oklahoma/summer.html

#### Permisson Forms:

www.psci.net/bibleinschool/studentmissionforms.html

American Camping Association: www.acacamps.org/ campline/transportatingchildren.htm

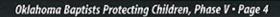
MSNBC: www.msnbc.com/news/154667.asp

National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation: www.nasdpts.org

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: www.nhtsa.dot.gov

Occupational Health Safety and Health Administration: www.osha-slc.gov.oshdoc/additional.hml

Oklahoma Department of Public Safety: www.dps.state.ok.us/dis/



# Summer Safety Tips for Children's Ministries and Activities

uring a child's out-of-school time, he/she needs opportunities to play, explore, create, learn new skills, use their imagination, and relax. A well-balanced summer ministry for children offers a wide variety of activities that are fun, interactive, and well supervised. It balances structure and fun that enhances children's safety while they develop social skills, a healthy concept that God made them and loves them (self-esteem), conflict resolution abilities, intellectual abilities, and creative talents and interest. Summer ministries within the church are tailored to meet children's developmental needs, the needs of the parents, and the needs of the church and community. These ministries can offer a variety of activities in day camp settings, Wednesday or Sunday evenings on church site, or at various times throughout the week. One caution is that children need not be so over programmed that they have little or no time with and for parents and families. Include in your ministry programming times for parents and children to interact and relax together.

## Some suggested activities:

- Tutoring afternoon or night—Invite adults to tutor children in your community or church.
- Games night—Provide wet games night, dry games night, board games night.
- Drama week—Children learn a drama, paint backdrops, prepare the stage setting, do the stage make-up and costumes, and then present the drama to parents.

Art week—Children participate in a variety of art activities. Exhibit the children's art and invite the parents and commu-

nity to the exhibit. Serve light

snacks.

Puppet week(s)—Children create puppets of their own from a variety of discards from home (paper towel tubes, old socks, plastic bowls, yarn, ribbon and buttons). After the puppets are designed by the children, invite them

to write down something for their puppet to say about God's love for children. Go to a local restaurant and ask if the children can perform their short puppet skit or, invite parents to a puppet play.

 Learn a language together—Learn Spanish, Plan Ahead: French, Latin or another language.

**Story Hour**—One or two times a week invite children to relax and listen to an adult read stories to them.

**Music evening**—Invite children to make instruments, play simple tunes, and present a concert for their parents. Or, invite an adult who plays an instrument to play for the children or have several church members who play instruments to have a mini concert for the children and their parents.

 Reading Time —Let the children choose the books and have adults be available to read the books to the children. Or, children can bring a favorite book from home and an adult reads a variety of books to the children. Be sure to play a stand-up and sit-down game between books to help relax the children.

• Field Trips—Plan simple field trips within your walking area (exploring and collecting rocks, bird watching, to visit a nearby homebound senior adult, to a local store, bakery, fire station, wheat field, garden, or farm). Or, plan more detailed field trips (museums, zoos, parks, nursing homes, hospitals, government buildings, historical sites, fishing, or nature adventure tour). Try to plan all field trips within walking distance in your community.

 Mission Trips — Take advantage of neighborhood missions that children can become involved

in (paint a fence, or clean a lawn for a senior adult, gather and prepare clothing for your church clothing closet or area clothing distributor, or gather and sort food for a food pantry).

> Nature Ideas—Plant a garden and watch it grow. Distribute the food products to others in need. Grow flowers to

cut and distribute to others or for the church worship center. Planta tree or trees for the church or senior adults who may need shade around their house. Learn about weather and invite a television or radio newscaster to visit your boys and girls.

- 1. Involve the children in designing the activities for the summer ministry. Guide them as they think of ideas for the summer. Keep your activities childcentered and help them learn from doing and experiencing rather than a lecture from you or an invited special quest.
  - Invite parents to make suggestions for summer activities. Distribute a survey card to parents for their ideas and suggestions on activities and ask about the needs of their child and family.
  - 3. Clear all arrangements (church transportation, budget, staff involvement) with the church.
  - Decide on the dates, times, place, kind of transportation necessary, church space available to accommodate the activity, snacks needed, parent involvement necessary, church involvement, number of adults to provide a good adult—child ratio.
- Place the activities on the church calendar.
- 6. Secure necessary adult supervision for the activities. Ahead of time let those accompanying or assisting you know what is expected and how to interact with children (appropriate dress, safety when crossing roads and streets and when loading and unloading vehicles, wearing seat belts, who to contact in case of emergencies, what to bring with them (water jug or sack lunch), when to be at the activity, how to space themselves among the children, modeling appropriate behavior, speak in a soft voice, engage in conversation with the children by asking open ended questions not "yes" "no" questions—example "If you could have a pet, what pet would you choose?"—keep all information you hear about family problems confidential, show interest and enthusiasm) and let the children learn through hands on experiences. Help them understand that one adult should never be alone with one child or children. Two adults should be together with the children at all times. Establish and distribute a schedule of ministry activities to parents and the children. Make sure parents know the dates, daily schedule, and weekly schedule of each activity.
- 7. Help parents understand through written and verbal communication what their child is to bring along, the church's policies on pick up and drop off of the children and security procedures (what parent is to pick up the child), the importance of having written consent forms returned for their child, the purpose of the activity, emergency procedures, and sign in, sign out procedures.

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

- Remember the details—gather all the materials and supplies needed to complete the activity before the day for the activity. Have enough supplies and materials for each child.
- Have the room or environment ready when the first child arrives (arrive 30 minutes before the starting time to set up the environment and make sure everything is in place).
- 10. Invite children to assist in compiling a few simple rules for safety and behavior. When children are involved and having fun they often forget rules and directions, be prepared to gently remind the children of the rules when necessary (avoid harping and threatening). When talking with a child, walk over to him/her and listen and talk with him/her one to one.
- Prepare the children for what they will be doing. Give good directions before children begin. Be prepared to kindly remind the children of the directions when necessary.
- 12. Supply parents with ongoing daily information about the activities and schedule through verbal and written communication.
- 13. Evaluate the ministry on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. Invite parents and children to help in the evaluation giving suggestions and offering ideas.
- 14. Follow up. Send each child a note of thanks for participating. Send thank you notes to parents for bringing or sending their child to the ministry activity. Visit in the homes of the children who do not attend your church and invite them and their families to your Sunday School and church.

## Tips for Successful Field Trips

- Provide adequate adult/child ratios. Base supervision on the location, activity and length of trip. For an average activity consider 1 to 3 or 4 for fours and fives, 1 to 5 for first through third graders, 1 to eight for fourth through sixth graders).
- If just beginning field trips with children, take short
  - outings (around the block or to a nearby park) and gradually increase the length of the field trip.
- Limit the number of children who participate. A group of 18 four and five-year-olds is large enough. A group of 30 children first grade through sixth grade is large enough. If
  - more children participate, consider each group of 30 as a separate group.
- Take time to help the children understand what is expected. Discuss rules, special procedures, and unusual aspects of the event.
- Plan and discuss any safety related issues such as staying with an adult at all times, the buddy system, keeping hands and body safely away from dangerous items or places, and transportation safety (for older children).
- Look over a map and mark places of special interest, bathrooms, and spots to rest along the way.
- Pin the name of your church, the church address and church phone number to each child.

# Checklist for a Safe and Fun Field Trip

- ☑ Do you have signed permission consent forms from parents?
- Do you have each child and adult's emergency medical information with you? Carry it at all times.
  - Do you have a firstaid kit well-stocked with bandages, antiseptic, latex gloves, and other suggested items?
  - Have you made notes of the allergies of all the children and adults?
- ☑ Do the adults accompanying you on the trip know about the allergies of each person? Have you brought along medications, inhalers, and items needed for allergic reactions?
- Do you have a nurse or designated person for administering the medication if needed?
- ☑ Do you have car seats, appropriate insurance coverage, and has the vehicle been through the safety check? Does the vehicle driver have the appropriate credentials for driving the vehicle?
- Do you have protection from the weather (sun screen, layers of clothing for cool weather, optional plans in case of inclement weather)?
- Do the children have clothing easily identifiable for your group? Tee shirts with your church's name will be great for outreach. Never put name tags on the children as they can be approached by strangers easily when called by name.
- Doyou have simple healthy snacks (cereal, granola, and plenty of water these snacks do not need to be kept cool and transport easily) with you to give to the children?
- Do you have quiet games planned or books to read while traveling to and from the location?
- Do you have a stroller (even with older children) to carry supplies and gear or to aid a child when exhausted?
- Have you checked with the church for any last minute details and left all travel and pertinent information with them in case of their need to contact you?
- Do you have an emergency contact person (at church or other) and has that person's number been given to the parents so that each parent can call the contact person in case of emergency?
- Have you called ahead to confirm the hours, fees, and to double check that your place of destination is ready for you and the group?



## SELECT CAMPS WITH CARE

#### Checklist

- ☐ Is the camp ACA Accredited Camp?
- Do all employees and camp counselors have background checks and screenings?
- What adult supervision is available for all outdoor activities and field trips?
- What adult supervision is available during in room times, meal times, and sleeping times?
- Are camp rules and regulations clearly stated and posted?
- Are parent and church handbooks provided and do they clearly communicate the purpose and mission of the camp? Are the guidelines and requirements for the parents, church, and child clearly presented?
- Visit the programs unannounced and notice:



- · How does the staff interact with the children?
- · Are the children having fun?
- Are the children being challenged?
- Is the camp flexible but organized?
- Are the leaders consistent with all children?
- Is there a variety of activities and equipment?
- Do all children have the opportunity to succeed in the activities?

# Sample Consent Forms

#### SAMPLE # 1

## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION AND CONSENT FORM (Adapt for the needs of your Church)

Child's Name	Birth Date:		CHILD'S PREFERRED SOURCES OF MEDICAL CARE Physician's Name:
Parent/Guardian #1			
Name	m. h. H.		— Address:Telephone:
•	Work	Mobile	
Parent/Guardian #2			Dentist's Name:
			·
Telephone:Home	Work	Mobile	Hospital Name:
EMERGENCY CONTACTS	(to whom child may be rel	leased if guardian is unavailable)	Address:Telephone:
		nship	Amahulan sa Camiisa.
Telephone:Home	Work	Mobile	<del>_</del>
Name #2:	Relatio	nship	(Darante ara raconneible for all amorgan cutranen artation charges)
Telephone: Home	Work	Mobile	
CHILD'S HEALTH INSUR	ANCE		
			ID#
Subscriber's Name (on insurance card):			
•	•		
SAMPLE #2 Health records are	,		Parent's Signature  rms which contain the following information are
provided.			0.4 (0.4)
Home Address			Telephone
* * <i>'</i>			Telephone
	•	•	our child for emergency medical care.
Name (s) of persons permitted	to pick up your child:		
<b>HEALTH INFORMATION</b>			
Immunization Current 🚨 y	es 🗀 no (Currento	copy of immunization record attached	1)
Physician's Name			
Address			Telephone
			Treatment
•			
*			
	<del></del>		and legal permission to administer emergency medical treatment).

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