

Providence Church Children's Ministry Manual

November 2015

It is a privilege to serve parents and their children at Providence Church. Our Children's Ministry provides contexts that supplement and support the parents' Biblical responsibility to raise their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. We provide nursery and classroom ministry for infants through 6th graders during our Sunday Celebration.

All parents who have children that participate in Children's Ministry are expected to serve as teachers and/or helpers. Obviously, certain seasons can make this impossible (such as having a new baby, illnesses, etc.), so care will be expressed towards such families and their responsibility will be suspended until the season has reasonably passed.

Mission statement

Providence Church's mission statement is "Treasuring Christ and inviting others to do the same." Our mission in Children's Ministry should be in support of that overall church mission.

The mission statement for Children's Ministry is "Assisting and supporting parents as they teach their children to treasure Christ." This statement will play itself out in several values that guide policies and practices.

Overarching values

1. Supporting Parents

As stated in our mission statement, our role in Children's Ministry is to assist and support the parents of our church. We aren't a substitute for the parent. This takes some responsibility off of our shoulders. We don't discipline children, for instance. This position also makes communication with the parents a high priority. Be quick to communicate with parents about how their child is doing.

Also, we are not in the position of pressuring children to "make a decision for Christ". When God saves a child, there will be evidence. If a child is asking about how to apply the gospel for salvation, you are certainly welcome to walk them through a sinner's prayer of repentance, but in such a case follow-up with parents will be vital.

This value also plays out in how we teach and work with the children on their LAMP scripture memory passages. We should definitely try to motivate the children to be working on the passages in their books, but we don't press it to the point that children feel left out of what we're doing in class if they aren't memorizing. The real motivation for memorization of scripture should be coming from the home.

2. Gospel Centered

In all our lessons we are seeking to connect the specific Bible passage/story to the gospel. Each Bible lesson should be tied to the overarching story of God seeking out and saving a people for Himself. When you're preparing your lessons, always ask how you will tie it to the gospel.

3. Dependent on the Holy Spirit

All the preparation in the world, all the clever object lessons, all the right crafts, and all the best snacks can't change a child's heart. That is only done by God's Spirit working in our classes. Always remember that we can plant and water, but God will give the growth. Ultimately it really isn't up to you to change anyone. We are dependent on God's grace.

Teacher Requirements

Teachers who are 18 and older must meet the following criteria.

- Must go through the process to become an Approved Youth Worker as defined by the Care Team
- Must read and sign the Children's Ministry Covenant
- Must attend regular training events for Children's Ministry

Teacher Job Description

Your mission, as a teacher, is to assist and support Providence Church parents in teaching their children what we are to believe concerning God and what He requires of us, according to the Scriptures. It is our purpose, in cooperation with parents, to prepare their children for salvation and instill in them a life pattern of obedience to God so that they will faithfully follow, love, and serve Him as He works out His plan for their generation.

Preparation:

- Please be aware of the schedule and know when and where you are serving.
- Read over the lesson early in the week. Then study and pray throughout the week in preparation. Please utilize the scheduled helpers with crafts, skits, etc. It is important to cover the assigned material each week.
- Read over and plan a memory verse activity to help the children memorize the current LAMP passage.
- Any questions or concerns about the teaching material should be brought to the Children's Ministry Coordinator.
- If you are not able to serve, it is your responsibility to contact another teacher to fill in for you, to offer to cover one of their Sundays, and to notify the Children's Ministry Coordinator of the change.
- Be familiar with the material in the General Procedures and Information section of the Children's Ministry manual.
- Be familiar with the material in the Child Protection Policy.

Time Obligation:

- Arrive by 9:45 to make any necessary preparations to your classroom. Please be available until 10:00 so that you can meet guest families, answer any questions, and invite them to sit in for a portion of the time or the entire class if they desire.
- Please come to the hallway at the back of the auditorium when the greeters go forward to receive the offering. When the children are dismissed, line them up quickly and quietly, and take them to the classroom.
- Teaching time will generally be from 10:50am-11:30am.
- Remain in the classroom until the last child in class has been released to his/her parents or other designated person possessing the family card. Alternately, children can be escorted directly to a parent/guardian if necessary.

Additional Responsibilities:

- Ensure that the Discipline Policy, Bathroom Policy, Sickness Policy, and Child Protection Policy are followed.
- The Check-in and Check-out Procedures must be followed when releasing children from the nursery/classroom.
- Be prepared to give input if parents ask for it at the end of class.
- Ensure that the classroom related items in the General Procedures and Information section of the Children's Ministry manual are followed.

Nursery Worker Requirements

Nursery workers who are 18 and older must meet the following criteria.

- Must go through the process to become an Approved Youth Worker as defined by the Care Team
- Must read and sign the Children's Ministry Covenant
- Must attend regular training events for Children's Ministry

Nursery Worker Job Description

Your mission as a nursery worker is to serve Providence Church parents by caring for their children. By temporarily releasing them of childcare responsibilities, you enable parents to fully participate in the Sunday service.

However, there is a real aspect of care for the children. Nursery workers and helpers should be interacting with the children by playing with them, reading to them, calming their fears, and encouraging them as they play.

Preparation:

- Please be aware of the schedule and know when and where you are serving.

- If you are not able to serve, it is your responsibility to contact another nursery worker to fill in for you, to offer to cover one of their Sundays, and to notify the Children's Ministry Coordinator of the change.
- Be familiar with the material in the General Procedures and Information section of the Children's Ministry manual.

Time Obligation:

- Arrive by 9:45 and be available until 10:00 so that you can meet guest families, answer any questions, and invite them to sit in and observe if they desire.
- Please come to the hallway at the back of the auditorium when the greeters go forward to receive the offering.
- Teaching time will generally be from 10:50am-11:30am.
- Remain in the nursery until the last child has been released to his/her parents or other designated person possessing the family card. Alternately, children can be taken directly to a parent/guardian if necessary.

Additional Responsibilities:

- Ensure that the Bathroom Policy, Sickness Policy, and Child Protection Policy are followed.
- The Check-in and Check-out Procedures must be followed when releasing children from the nursery/classroom.
- Ensure that the nursery related items in the General Procedures and Information section of the Children's Ministry manual are followed.

Helper Requirements

Helpers who are 18 and older must meet the following criteria.

- Must go through the process to become an Approved Youth Worker as defined by the Care Team
- Must read and sign the Children's Ministry Covenant
- Must attend regular training events for Children's Ministry

Helpers who are under 18 must meet the following criteria.

- Must have at least one parent/guardian who is a member of Providence Church
- Must read and sign the Children's Ministry Covenant
- Must attend regular training events for Children's Ministry

Once the above requirements are met, a Children's Ministry helper who is under 18 will be considered an Approved Youth Worker.

Helper Job Description

Your role, as a helper, is to support and serve the teacher of the class, as well as be an example to the children in the class.

Preparation:

- Please be aware of the schedule and know when and where you are serving.
- Be ready to assist the teacher with the lesson if asked.
- If you are not able to serve, it is your responsibility to contact another helper to fill in for you, to offer to cover one of their Sundays, and to notify the Children's Ministry Coordinator of the change.
- Be familiar with the material in the General Procedures and Information section of the Children's Ministry manual.

Time Obligation:

- Arrive by 9:45 and check with the teacher to see if they need anything before class.
- Please come to the hallway at the back of the auditorium when the greeters go forward to receive the offering, and follow any teacher's instructions.
- Remain in the classroom until the last child in class has been released to his/her parents or other designated person possessing the family card. Alternately at the discretion of the teacher, children can be escorted directly to a parent/guardian if necessary.

Additional Responsibilities (always defer to the teacher's instructions when doing the following):

- Take attendance, noting any special instructions about specific children that are listed on the form.
- Distribute any items to the children (papers, crayons, etc.).
- Clean up any items that the children are finished with (collect crayons, Bibles, etc.).
- Be aware of any children that may need assistance or direction. Help to keep them focused on what the teacher wants them to do.
- Encourage children to listen to the teacher (redirect distracted or talking students).
- Assist the teacher in following the Bathroom Policy, Discipline Policy, and Child Protection Policy. You may be asked to go to the auditorium to get a parent. In that case, see the Welcome Ministry greeter (floater), who will then ask the parent to go to the classroom.
- As parents arrive at the end of the service, assist the teacher in releasing the children to his/her parents/guardians following the Check-In and Check-Out Procedure.
- At the end of class, check the supplies checklist and report to the Children's Ministry Coordinator anything that is in need of resupply.
- At the end of class, make sure that all supplies are neatly returned to the appropriate bin(s).
 - In the nursery binder, there is a diagram showing which supplies should be placed into which bins.

- If helping in the nursery, clean any toys that ended up in children's mouths at the end of the service.

Child Protection Policy

Providence Church has a church-wide Child Protection Policy in place. As such, the Children's Ministry will defer to the Child Protection Policy for issues covered by that policy.

However, there is one over-arching piece of the Child Protection Policy that bears emphasizing here: the Rule of Three. This rule is detailed in the Child Protection Policy, but it will end up being an important guideline in nearly all Children's Ministry activities.

Please see Section 4: Youth Activity Standards of the Child Protection Policy for more detail.

Bathroom policy

The Children's Ministry bathroom policy is really just an application of the church-wide Child Protection Policy.

Nursery

Children's Ministry workers are not permitted to change diapers. A child who needs a diaper change must await his or her parent's/guardian's attention. The parent/guardian of the child will be notified by the Welcome Ministry greeter and shown to the appropriate diaper changing area.

3-5 year olds

There are some children in this age group that will still need assistance in the bathroom. Also, at our current meeting location, the sinks and soap are high enough that most of these children cannot reach them. Because of these factors, Children's Ministry workers will not take children in this age group to the bathroom. Rather, we will call for help from a parent or guardian.

Grades 1-6

Children in this age group are assumed to be able to use bathroom facilities on their own. The Child Protection Policy section 4.2.e provides a procedure for escorting children to the bathroom. In that section it states that the procedure applies to children 5 years old and under. In Children's Ministry we will follow that same procedure for the children in grades 1-6.

In cases where it seems better to just take a classroom break and have many children go to the bathroom at the same time, the whole class should go as a group.

In this case the rule of three must be followed in the bathroom, with both observers maintaining line of sight with activity in the bathroom.

A member of the welcome team (e.g. the "floater") will usually be employed to assist in these cases as well as providing compliance with the rule of three.

Discipline policy

According to scripture, parents are the primary means of discipline for their children. Therefore, Children's Ministry teachers and helpers are not to "discipline" children, other than to provide verbal instruction and correction, or to move individuals in order to separate disorderly children.

If a child *continues* to be uncooperative after he/she has been clearly made aware of what is expected, the teacher should speak gently and appeal lovingly to the child. If the child does not respond, a helper or greeter should call a parent or guardian from the meeting to be informed of the problem. Dialogue between the teachers and parents is essential, so that the parents are able to adequately address the child. It is the parents' responsibility to determine what course of action is appropriate.

Any teacher's concerns about children's behavior should be brought to the Children's Ministry Coordinator.

Sickness policy

Children should not participate in Children's Ministry if they have had any of these symptoms within the last 24 hours:

- A fever (100 degrees or higher)
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea or loose stools
- An unidentified rash
- A harsh cough or large amounts of yellow or green nasal discharge
- Any symptom with which they would usually stay home from school
- Lethargic behavior (moms usually know when the child isn't feeling well)

These precautions are in place primarily to protect other children and Children's Ministry workers, but also because we are not equipped to care for sicknesses on site.

Children's Ministry workers are not permitted to administer any medication (over-the-counter or prescribed) to children. If necessary, parents are encouraged to come to the classroom to treat them. Children's Ministry workers should ask parents to keep their children in the service if they are acting ill or unable to appropriately participate, due to illness. Any question regarding the application of this policy will be handled by the Children's Ministry Coordinator.

Check-in and Check-out Procedure

Children's Ministry nursery and classes are available during the teaching time (10:50-11:30):

- Chipmunks (ages 0-2) – yellow
- Lambs (ages 3-5) – red
- Eagles (grades 1-3) – green
- Lions (grades 4-6) - blue

After the announcements (at approximately 10:50) the children will be dismissed. Children's Ministry workers should be in the hallway outside of the auditorium to receive the children, line them up, and escort them to the classroom. However, it is the parents' responsibility to ensure that their children arrive at the classroom. Attendance will be taken at the start of class.

After the service is over, one parent/guardian should promptly and personally pick-up their child from their appropriate classroom. We encourage parents to regularly ask the teacher for input on their child's behavior and participation, and to thank the teachers and helpers for serving.

Parents will receive a family card listing last name and a serial number. Unless presented with a valid family card, Children's Ministry workers should only release a child to a parent/guardian or family member with whom the worker is personally familiar. If the Children's Ministry worker is unfamiliar with the person retrieving the child, the family card must be shown and validated before the child can be released. We request that parents do not ask Children's Ministry workers to release a child to unknown persons without presenting the family card.

Visitors temporary use family cards

Visitors should be brought to the Children's Ministry table to receive a temporary family card. The Children's Ministry worker at the table will apply a serial number to the card, and record the names of the visiting children into the proper attendance binders. The same serial number will then be applied to the records in the attendance binders.

Using the family card

When a family card is used, it must be validated. Each card has a serial number, which should be matched against the serial number for that family on the attendance form. The serial number is required to protect against stolen or lost family cards. We request that parents protect their family card much in the same way that they would a driver's license or credit card. Lost cards should be reported to the Children's Ministry coordinator. The lost card will be invalidated and a new one issued.

Examples for when a family card is unnecessary:

- A parent is retrieving their child from the nursery/classroom, and is personally familiar with the nursery worker/teacher and/or helper. (We anticipate this to be the majority of cases).
- An older sibling is sent by the parent to retrieve a younger sibling from the nursery/classroom, and is personally familiar with the nursery worker/teacher and/or helper.

Examples for when a family card is necessary:

- A parent is staying in the auditorium after the teaching time for prayer and sends a trusted, non-family member to retrieve their child from the nursery/classroom.
- A parent is retrieving their child from the nursery/classroom, and is unknown to the nursery worker/teacher and helper. (For example a visitor, or person very new to the church).

In cases where the person retrieving a child is unknown to the Children's Ministry worker and the family card is missing, the Children's Ministry coordinator should be contacted to assess and handle the situation.

General Procedures and Information

General Information

- The schedule for serving in Children's Ministry is put together quarterly and distributed via email and/or physical paper copy. The current version can also be viewed at <http://www.provchurch.org/childrensministryschedule>.
- If you are unable to be at church on a Sunday morning on which you are scheduled to serve by 9:55am (i.e. you are running late), please call or text the Children's Ministry Coordinator to let them know that you will arrive late.
- Children's Ministry workers should all check-in with the Children's Ministry table on Sunday mornings that they are serving. This provides an opportunity to pick up your badge and get any last-minute information that you may need.
- There is a first aid kit available. It is generally kept with the Welcome Team Ministry items.
- Each attendance sheet has a comments section to the right. Teachers and helpers should check this area to be made aware of any special considerations (e.g. allergies, special child needs, etc).
- Snacks are not provided by the Children's Ministry. You are welcome to provide a snack if you would care to, but please only do so after investigating parents' wishes with regards to sugary snacks, children's allergies, etc.
- At the end of Sunday morning, Children's Ministry workers should return their badges and attendance notebooks to the Children's Ministry table.
- Children should not be in the classrooms without adult supervision.

LAMP Memory Verse Program

We use a common memory verse program across all levels of Children's Ministry. It is based strongly on the SWORD Bible Memory program that was developed at Covenant Fellowship Church in Glen Mills, PA. There is a separate section of this manual that provides more detail about the LAMP program as well as suggestions for activities to help children learn the memory verses.

Nursery

- To the best of our ability, we want toys that end up in children's mouths to be separated from the rest of the toys and cleaned at the end of the service. There will be a designated bin in which to place such toys. The nursery helper will have the task of cleaning them at the end of the service.
- Nursery toys will be cleaned on a quarterly basis. The Children's Ministry Coordinator will schedule a time for the toys to be collected and cleaned. Nursery workers are requested to be available to help with these toy cleanings.
- There is a diagram in the attendance book that shows how to pack-up the toys into the three nursery bins.
- Nursery workers and helpers are expected to interact with the children, play with them, etc. However there are cases when a child simply will not be calmed after all reasonable measures have been taken. In cases where a child is distraught for extended periods of time, a parent/guardian should be sent for in order to care for the child.

Classrooms

- Several of the classrooms in which we meet contain specialized teaching equipment. None of these items should be handled by the children or the Children's Ministry Team members.
- In general we need to leave things as we found them:
 - We are permitted to move chairs and desks provided that we return the items to their original locations.
 - We are not to erase anything on the chalkboards/markerboards.
 - We are permitted to write on the chalkboards/markerboards as long as we erase the chalkboards/markerboards before we leave.
- No school-owned electronic items (computers, TVs, etc.) are to be used.
- We are not permitted to use items that are on display or located on teacher's desks.

LAMP Bible Memory

The System:

This scripture memory program is based strongly on the SWORD Bible Memory program that was developed at Covenant Fellowship Church in Glen Mills, PA. The passages used in LAMP are the same passages used in the SWORD program. However, since we have added a couple of extra features to the program, we thought it best to give it another name.

The program has thirty-six Bible passages, one for each month over three years. The first half is designated Old Testament and the second half is New Testament. These halves are designed to work in tandem with The Gospel Story Curriculum (formerly God's Story) Old & New Testament materials, which have 1½ years for each part. The passages themselves are presented in three books of 12 months each.

Each Bible passage is broken out into three levels:

- Basic - one verse per month. Suggested for preschoolers, the Basic level verse is what will be taught for memory work in our preschool class.
- Intermediate - between two and four additional verses per month. Suggested for grades 1-3, the Intermediate level verses are what will be taught in our 1-3 grades class.
- Advanced - up to eight additional verses per month. Suggested for grades 4-adult, the entire Bible passage (between six and nine verses) is what will be taught in our 4-6 grades class.

Children as young as age three can begin memorizing the Basic level. As your child gets older, additional verses are added to form a passage. Eventually, when the Advanced level is complete, your child will have memorized a Bible passage 6-9 verses long. The fun part is having your whole family memorizing the same passage together. You may have your preschooler doing one verse, your 3rd grade student doing three, and you and your older children memorizing six to nine verses each month, with the whole family memorizing verses from the same passage!

Children will be given an opportunity to recite scripture verses they have memorized to a Children's Ministry worker. As each verse is recited, the Children's Ministry worker will initial that verse in the booklet. When a given level has been completely recited, a Children's Ministry worker will sign that section of the child's booklet.

Who it's for:

If Bible memorization intimidates you, you are not alone. Bible memorization does not need to be difficult. In fact, it can be a lot of fun. Having God's Word available to share from memory is an invaluable asset when encouraging others. This program is designed to get the whole family involved together, from three year-olds and up,

memorizing scriptures that are a part of the same passage. If you keep at it, you and your family will begin to make God's Word a part of everyday living.

The Scripture Passages

Old Testament

1. Hebrews 11:1-6
2. Psalm 119:89-94
3. Psalm 139:1-8
4. Psalm 145:1-6
5. Psalm 145:8-13
6. Proverbs 3:1-8
7. Psalm 121:1-8
8. Exodus 20:1-9
9. Exodus 20:10-17
10. Philippians 4:4-9
11. Psalm 18:30-35
12. Psalm 103:8-13
13. Proverbs 2:1-8
14. Psalm 23:1-6
15. Psalm 127:1-5
16. 1 John 1:5-10
17. Psalm 118:19-24
18. Psalm 107:1-6

New Testament

1. Galatians 3:24-29
2. John 3:16-21
3. Matthew 5:3-12
4. Matthew 6:9-15
5. Matthew 6:19-24
6. Matthew 6:27-33
7. John 14:1-6
8. John 14:15-21
9. Isaiah 53:3-7
10. Romans 5:1-6
11. Hebrews 4:12-16
12. Psalm 91:1-8
13. Romans 1:16-20
14. John 15:12-17

15. Deuteronomy 6:4-9
16. Philippians 2:3-11
17. Romans 12:9-14
18. Hebrews 12:1-6

Memory Verse Activities

There are several (probably many!) resources on the web with ideas for memory verse review games. We've taken a few and summarized them here. The best activities will be ones that involve a lot of reciting of the verse(s). However, other activities can be used later in the month when the verse(s) are (hopefully) mostly memorized.

Disappearing Words

1. Write the verse (or part of it) on the board.
2. Recite the verse together.
3. Have the children close their eyes and erase a word from the verse.
4. Recite the verse together.
5. Repeat erasing and reciting until the verse is gone.

As an alternate version, have a different child erase a word each time.

Verse Hunt

1. Write each word of the verse on separate pieces of paper and hide the pieces of paper around the room.
2. Have the children hunt for all the words.
3. Once all have been found, the children must put the pieces into the correct order.
4. Recite the verse together.
5. Repeat as you have time.

Alphabet Cereal Scramble

1. Bring in several cups of alphabet cereal.
2. Divide the children into groups and each group takes a cup of alphabet cereal.
3. Groups compete to create words from the memory verse with the letters they received.
4. The group that can make the most words from the memory verse wins.

Word Scramble

This is a variation on the Verse Hunt. Instead of hiding the words in the room, you mix them up and throw them onto the floor and have the children put them in order.

Magazine Word Scramble

This is a variant of the Alphabet Cereal Scramble. Bring in magazines and scissors and have the children hunt for words from the verse in the magazine and cut them out. The team with the most words found wins.

Memory Verse Concentration

This is a way to review many different verses, after several have been memorized.

1. Write each half of several verses on separate pieces of paper.
2. Play concentration where the goal is to match the beginning and ending of a verse.

Memory Verse Ping-Pong

1. Split the children into two teams.
2. Ask successive children on each team to recite the next word in the verse, going back and forth between the two teams until someone makes a mistake.
3. When a mistake is made, the other team scores a point.

A-Maze-ing Verses

1. Write the memory verse on the board.
2. Draw a maze on the board beneath the memory verse, cover the maze with a blanket, sheet, butcher paper, etc.
3. Have the children recite the verse several times.
4. Erase many verses from the written version, replacing the missing words with a blank placeholder.
5. Reveal the maze, start a navigation line for the maze at the beginning.
6. Ask the children for one of the missing words.
7. When a child can supply a missing word, allow them to choose a direction for movement through the maze.

Memory Verse Sports

It is possible to take nearly any sport and adapt it to memory review. Basically, reciting a verse either takes the place of the sporting activity (shooting/hitting a ball/puck) or gives the player permission to attempt the actual activity.

In versions where there is an offense vs. defense kind of gameplay, you can offer the opposing team a chance to stop the offensive play by giving them an opportunity to recite the verse (or name the next word in a partially recited verse).

Here is a version of Basketball:

- Get a nerf basketball and hoop (or use a clean trash can and appropriate ball).
- Recite the verse several times as a group.

- Split into two teams.
- As team members approach a free-throw line, have them recite the verse.
- If a child recites the verse correctly, s/he gets the opportunity to shoot the ball for points.
- If a child does not recite the verse correctly, s/he goes to the back of the line.
- The team with the most sunk baskets wins.

To do a Football game:

- Draw a football field on the board.
- When a team member recites the verse, his team moves down the field 10 yards.
- Four mistakes causes a turnover of the ball.

An alternate version would be to allow a child to throw a nerf football through a tire or hoop when the verse is correctly recited, and a successful throw is rewarded with movement down the field.

To do a Baseball game:

- Draw a baseball diamond on the board.
- When a team member recites the verse, he scores a hit.
- Move players around the 4 bases as successive verses are correctly recited.
- Three mistakes causes the other team to get a turn at bat.

To do a Hockey/Soccer game:

- Draw a field/rink on the board.
- When a team member recites the verse, the ball/puck is passed up the field/ice.
- Some number of successive correct movements scores a goal.
- A mistake causes the other team to get the ball/puck and move towards their goal.

An alternate version would be to allow a child to attempt a shot on goal (with nerf materials!) when the verse is correctly recited, and only a successful shot scores.

Memory Verse Burst

This is a variant of Disappearing Words.

1. Write the verse out word-by-word onto inflated balloons.
2. Pin the balloons to a board so that the verse is readable.
3. Pop a balloon, thereby removing a word from the verse.
4. Recite the verse together.
5. Repeat until all the balloons are popped and the verse is being recited from memory.

Memory Verse Tic-Tac-Toe

1. Divide the children into two teams.
2. Play tic-tac-toe, except that successive members of each team must recite the verse before picking a spot to play the X or O.

As an alternate version, create the tic-tac-toe board on the floor with 9 chairs and have the child who chooses the play position sit in the chair where the X or O would be placed.

Memory Verse Hot Potato

This is a variant of Word Scramble.

1. Put all the slips of paper with verse words into a small bag that will be the hot potato
2. Play music as the children pass the potato around
3. When the music stops, the child with the potato must pull out a word and place it in sequence
4. When all the words have been retrieved the children make sure the verse is in correct order

As a alternate version, have the children recite the verse as they pass the potato around, stopping on random words to pull papers out of the bag.

Pass the Pigs

Pass the Pigs is a press-your-luck game where each person's turn doesn't take very long. Other similar games such as the dice game Farkle (aka Greedy) can be adapted to this activity. Really any game that has that kind of mechanic (where each person takes a turn and the turn doesn't take very long) can be used to provide a framework within which you can do repeats of memory verses.

1. A child takes a turn in Pass the Pigs
2. When the child's turn is over (either they decide to stop, or they go bust) everyone repeats aloud a verse (or several)
3. REPEAT

Children's Ministry Worker's Covenant

It is our goal at Providence Church to provide for our children and young people a Christian education and environment which will supplement the teaching they already have at home. In order to ensure all teachers and helpers are informed towards this goal, we ask all of our workers to agree to the following statements:

- I have read the Providence Church Child Protection Policy and will abide by the practices therein.
- I willingly support the teaching of Providence Church and will not teach doctrine or ideas which I know to be contrary to the teaching or philosophy of this church.¹
- I will be prompt and faithful in the discharge of my service within the Children's Ministry.
- I have never been accused and/or convicted of child abuse.
- I know of nothing in my past that would disqualify me from working with children.

Signature

Print Name

Date

¹Providence Church's doctrinal statement can be viewed on our website, or a copy can be requested from the church office.the church office.