**Whether the senior pastor, a children’s ministry director, a volunteer, or a parent of young children, we all have a role to play in keeping our children safe.**

Screen Staff and Volunteers: New Life Church runs a background check on everyone who works on staff, volunteers, or directly interacts with the children in our children’s ministry.

Secure the Physical Area: A police officer is on location during both 9 am and 11 am services. New Life Church has an entire wing for the children’s ministry. Persons not serving within the children’s ministry, or picking up or dropping off a child, will not be allowed within this area. Children do not leave this area without an adult escort unless they have been turned back over to the care of their parent or guardian.

Established Check-In/Checkout Procedure: When families bring their child to children’s church the Welcome Team volunteers print matching identification tags that includes the names of child and parents, a contact number, allergies if any and a code ID. One is placed on the child and the other is handed to the parent. The matching ID tag system is enforced when the parent, grandparent or care giver retrieve their child/children.

Have Clear Plans and Procedures: New Life Church requires two volunteers to each room of children. An adult is never left alone with the children. Two volunteers are assigned to go room-to-room and check on the children and volunteer when classes are in session. These people can relieve adults who need to tend to emergencies, take a child to the restroom, find a parent, or assist with a messy cleanup or replenishing resources. The classroom is equipped with a first aid kit and disinfectant. Volunteers know where fire extinguishers and exit plans are and have immediate access to a phone and water source.

Train All Staff and Volunteers: New Life Church Volunteers are taught about procedures, the purposes behind these procedures and how they keep children safe. This training emphasizes keeping the children’s ministry are secure, enforcing the check in and out rules, handling toileting issues safely, age-specific or ability specific care of children, how to use the materials and methods for instruction of the curriculum and knowing expected responses when emergencies occur. New Life Church require a training seminar for all staff and children’s ministry volunteers about how to spot physical and sexual abuse. There may be no better way to show children the character of God than to see them and shelter them when no one else can or will. We can do that if we know the signs of physical and sexual abuse. NLC Staff and volunteers know how and are legally required to report any suspected child abuse to law enforcement or family services.