

BETHESDA FRIENDS MEETING

General Child Care Information

Child Care *AGES*

- a. *Meeting for Worship on Sunday:* BFM's Child Care is for children who are infants (6 months of age) through Pre-Kindergarten.
 - Children normally move into BFM's First Day School in September of the year the child enters Kindergarten. Any change to this transition date can be mutually agreed upon by the Parents, the Religious Education (First Day School) Teachers or Committee, and the Child Care Committee.
 - During the summer Meeting for Worship, the children in Child Care often join the older children (Kindergarten to 6th grade) in supervised play activities.
- b. *Child Care during other events:* BFM may offer Child Care at other events, such as Meeting for Business, First Day School parent meetings, Weddings, Funerals, etc. During those events, the ages will be infants (6 months) to 6th grade.

Child Care *FACILITY*

- a. *BFM's Child Care Room* is the Day Care facility of Sidwell Friends School, and as such has age-appropriate toys and is accredited for use by children aged 6 months through Pre-K. Please discuss any individual concerns with the Child Care Provider or the Child Care Committee clerks.
- b. *Child Care during other events:* During "other events," (such as during the summer or special meetings), children in Child Care might spend time on the Sidwell Friends playground, in BFM's First Day School classroom, or in a Sidwell Friends activity room—usually with the older children.
- c. *Snack:* BFM provides graham crackers, Ritz crackers, and water for mid-morning snack. Please discuss allergies with the Child Care Provider or the Child Care Committee clerks.

Child Care *PROVIDERS*

- a. *Paid Professionals:* BFM hires child care professional providers, and we schedule at least one to be on site to supervise the care of your children whenever child care is scheduled.
 - Our Providers have experience (school and/or practical) with ages infant through Pre-K, are CPR and First Aid certified, and have undergone a criminal background check.
 - b. *BFM Adult Volunteers:* BFM's Child Safety Policy require that a second person (usually a BFM adult volunteer, 18 years of age or older) assist the child care Professional. (The Child Safety Policy is on the BFM website.) Volunteers must have attended BFM for at least six months.
 - c. *Parents:* Parents are welcome to stay in the Child Care Room. A rocking chair, changing table, and cribs are available.
 - d. *Young Adult Helpers (16-18 year olds):* These teens are in addition to the adults and are usually earning community service hours.
- BFM follows Maryland Office of Child Care regulations to determine the appropriate adult:child ratio. In most cases, for the size of our child care, only 1-2 adults are needed. In circumstances when additional adults are needed, a parent may be asked to remain as a helper.
- In some unusual situations (such as inclement weather or scheduling emergencies) there might be only one adult in the child care room (either the paid Provider or a BFM Adult Volunteer). If this happens, either a parent will be asked to remain as a helper or parent(s) will be asked to initial their agreement that one adult on site is acceptable.

Child Care *COMMITTEE*

- a. BFM's Child Care is supervised by the Child Care Committee, whose names and contact information are in the *Directory* or available from the Head of Meeting.