

NEW
QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER!

Refuge Kids

July-September 2009



The Noise from Beneath...

Loud. Scary?

Under supervision.

Our community has a lot of kids. They aren't always there at the same time, of course. Sometimes there are 6, sometimes there are 25. But, one thing can be counted upon when our majority is 3-6 years old: Sound. Noise. Mostly in the volume of LOUD. We hope we aren't interrupting the time

upstairs but we are hoping to help the children engage in their own version of community and Jesus.

We offer 3 classes every Saturday night. Nursery, PreSchool and Elementary. Often the PreSchoolers and Elementary are fused together in one big group. I confess, I love this. I love (and need!) the help and care the older ones bring to our children. And I love

the bigger sense of community that this instills in our kids. The lines between classes are blurred, in good ways (just like in the adult world) and we all work, play and learn together.

We currently have the most volunteers the refuge has ever had in regards to our kids and I am *thankful*. Each brings their own sense of love and Jesus and connects with the kids in unique ways. I learn new ways to teach

refuge nursery rules: just posted!!

We've always had nursery rules. Though they've changed as our needs have changed. And after the latest deep clean of the nursery I decided to make these rules a bit more "official" and known. These rules are hopefully simple and only for the safety and cleanliness of our nursery for our babies.

1. The Nursery is for babies ages 0-3 years old.
2. No food in the nursery.
3. No shoes in the nursery. (our building is old, our parking lot is not paved. we have a lot of dirt, so that's why we ask for stocking feet only!)
4. If your child is having a hard time being downstairs then a refuge kids volunteer will come up and find you.

PUMP IT UP!

Monday, August 17,
6:00pm

8835 W 116th Cir. Broomfield 80021
303-466-7867

This back-to-school bash is a way to have some end-of-summer fun with other Refuge families and children. We'll jump for about

an hour and half and then retire to gain back some calories with pizza.

Socks are required so please remember

to bring those with you and let me know if you can play with us!

More about our NOISE...

our children and love them when I work alongside different volunteers.

The intention behind our time downstairs is much the same as the intention upstairs. To talk and engage in community. To make friends and deepen relationships. To learn more about God and Jesus and have the space to share our doubts, our needs, our hopes and our joys and praise. To learn about others different from us and to learn and pursue justice.

Since the majority of our children are under 7 we do most of this through games, crafts and simple bible stories.

We've learned about Queen Esther and Purim. Zaccheus and Martin Luther King, Jr. We've written letters to the orphans we support in Thailand and we eat animal crackers and play duck, duck, goose.

It's hard, I won't lie, to find curriculum that is safe for

children and true to the refuge. I'm always open to suggestions about different things to try and different ways to incorporate Jesus into our kids hearts and minds.

I had a good experience as a small child in sunday school. I know not all of us had. I carry these good memories with me as I create the space for our kids to play in downstairs in the hopes that somehow, someday Jesus will be closer to their sweet spirits and bodies.

Is it crazy downstairs?

Always.

Is it chaotic and hard?

Yes. Love is hard. Patience is hard.

Is it safe downstairs?

Definitely.

Is it loud?

Sure! Most of us are 4 or 5 so nothing is fun if it isn't loud!!

Our Needs:

Volunteers:

We do always need more adults to help teach, love and keep safe our children. There are 4 different ways to hang out with us downstairs:

Hold babies in the Nursery.

Teach PreSchool - 3-5 year olds.

Teach Elementary - 6-12 year olds.

Float - help any teacher or child that may need it!

Crafty Items:

We will always take colors, markers, coloring books, construction paper or anything else that you may have or see that would be fun for us to use downstairs.

Prayers:

We always need your prayers. For those of us who teach and can get tired. For our kids whose lives are no more or less chaotic than our own.

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