



**Haydenville Congregational Church UCC
Children’s, Youth, and Family Ministry Programs
2016-2017 Program Year**

Haydenville Congregational Church Safe Church Guidelines Basic Guidelines

The goal of our Safe Church policy is to contribute to an atmosphere of cooperation, trust and community, where the worth and dignity and individuality of each child is honored and protected, where no one is threatened or intimidated, and where abuse or neglect of any child is prevented.

- *“Two Adult Rule:”* This means that at least two adults will be present at all times with any group of children.
- Doors to the Children’s Church (“CC”) and Nursery rooms will be kept ajar at all times.
- Adults and Children cannot leave the premises together without special permission from parents and coordinators of CC program.
- Suspected Abuse or Neglect must be reported confidentially to Pastor or Coordinators of the CC program.
- Teachers will attend orientation sessions annually.
- Children will be informed that physical aggression toward other children is not allowed and may lead to a temporary “time out” from Children’s Church.
- Children should never be hit or physically redirected. Physical guidance with children over three should be used only in consultation with parents and other adults. Pats on the shoulder and back are encouraged, but adults should model “asking” to give hugs, and such physical contact should be done in the presence of others.
- Toileting Guidelines: An adult should take children who request assistance, or who are ages three and under to the bathroom. Adults should stand outside the bathroom with door ajar if possible.
 - Following the first time an adult helps a child with a toileting routine with a child they should inform parent(s).
- Children are not to leave the Children’s Church area unsupervised during worship. In most cases they should not leave the room at all, but if they need to, an adult should accompany them.
- Adults who work as teachers or in other capacities in CC must sign on to these guidelines. Confidential CORI checks will be performed by Rev. Chris Mereschuk on behalf of the Children’s and Youth Ministry Programs.

Signature to Acknowledge Receipt

Date

Printed Name

Parent

Volunteer

Notes: A copy of this covenant is available at haydenvillechurch.org and in hardcopy. This form is valid for one year from the date of your signature.