

Children's Behavioral Guidelines at ICWP

At ICWP, we aim to create a welcoming environment for all worshippers while nurturing our youth. These guidelines balance encouraging children's presence in the masjid with maintaining an atmosphere conducive to worship and reflection.

Age Guidelines

Ages 0-6 (Infants & Toddlers)

- Infants welcome; family-friendly spaces available if needed
- Encourage toddlers to join simple acts of worship, like saying "Ameen"

Ages 7-10 (Young Children)

- Should begin praying with their parents/guardians during prayers at the masjid
- Teach basic prayer etiquette through fun activities or stories
- Quiet play areas may be available in designated areas during long prayers

Ages 11-15 (Pre-teens & Teens)

- Engage in youth programs focused on leadership and Islamic values
- May sit together but remain respectful of prayer environment

Behavior During Prayer

- Remain quiet and avoid distracting others
- No playing in prayer areas unless approved by the Board or Imam
- Do not cross in front of people praying
- Join prayer if old enough, even briefly
- Walk calmly to join prayers
- Speak quietly and minimize conversations
- Keep electronics silent
- No toys or game consoles are allowed in prayer halls during prayer

Parental Responsibilities

- Always supervise children in the masjid
- Teach good manners and appropriate behavior and gently remind children of masjid etiquette
- Accompany your children during prayers and monitor their behavior
- Remove disruptive children from the prayer areas if necessary
- Be prepared to leave the masjid if children become uncontrollable
- Bring quiet activities to keep children occupied
- Remove disruptive children if necessary
- Be patient and avoid disciplining other families' children
- If you have a concern, communicate it to a Board Member or the Imam

Corrective Steps

- Verbal Notice: Friendly reminders for unsupervised or disruptive behavior
- Written Notice: If issues persist
- Temporary Restriction: Families may be asked to refrain from bringing children until supervision improves
- Serious Incidents: May require further actions with greater consequences

Policy Liability Limits

Parents/Guardians agree to:

- Always be solely responsible for continuously supervising your children on ICWP premises
- Take full responsibility for any damages caused by children to the masjid or its surroundings
- Ensure children observe proper etiquette and respect the masjid's sanctity
- ICWP does not assume any liability of you or your family while attending the masjid
- Ensure your children do not run, play loudly, or engage in rough behavior in all ICWP masjid prayer areas, all staircases and all ICWP parking lots
- Comply with all instructions from mosque staff regarding child behavior
- There may not be a designated play area for children depending on the service or event that takes place at ICWP
- Understand that ICWP is not responsible for providing childcare or designated supervisors

For helpful tips on developing children's behavior at ICWP, please click on the link below:

<https://www.icwpa.org/>

By following these guidelines, we can uphold Islamic principles of kindness towards children while ensuring our mosque remains a place of worship, learning, and community for all generations. ICWP welcomes any questions, feedback, comments, and suggestions. Feedback and questions may be directed to the ICWP Board or Iman Mohamed Yaccoub at icwp2019@gmail.com