

# Encounter Program Guidelines for Encounter Students

## We Love Students

At the Dawson Family of Faith, we love students and count it a privilege to minister to them and their families. They are not only a vital part of the church, but they are the means by which the fame of the Lord's name will be carried to the next generation. We who invest, on behalf of students and their parents, take our responsibility seriously and want to do all we can to build faith into these students, provide a safe environment, and encourage parents. This responsibility and passion is what has inspired and formed these principles and guidelines for students at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church.

## Parent Responsibility

We believe scripture teaches that the family is the primary place for the training of their students (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Proverbs 22:6). Since Parents are ultimately responsible for their children, we will cooperate with parents to achieve the desired behavior while under the supervision of a Dawson Program Leader. The Dawson Leader(s) will be expected to maintain order and direct appropriate behavior of the students in his/her care.

## We Value Security

We require that all students sign-in upon entering the Family Recreation Center by signing their name and giving the time they arrive.  
An approved adult must pick-up and sign-out their student for the each day.

## Expectations of Students

Although behavior boundaries vary depending on the age of the students, the activities they are involved in, and where that activity takes place, most rules will fall under one of the four basic goals we have for students.

### 1. Respect for Property

Students will be expected to treat the church building, furnishings, and equipment in a way that honors the Lord and to use those things in the way that they were intended. Space and equipment should be left in the same or better condition than it was found. Students or their parents may be asked to accept responsibility for accidental or intentional damage to church property or equipment.

## **2. Respect for Leaders**

We want the students at Dawson to honor the Leaders in the church with respectful speech and behavior. Sassing or defying the instruction or correction of a leader are examples of what is considered disrespectful.

## **3. Respect for Others**

We will endeavor to provide a physically, emotionally, and spiritually safe environment for every student involved at Dawson.

Students will be encouraged to think before they speak and find encouraging things to say to others. Therefore, mean, crude, or hurtful speech or actions toward others will not be acceptable. Students will also be expected to refrain from any negative physical behavior such as, but not limited to: hitting, spitting, and bullying.

## **4. Respect for Themselves**

We will encourage students not to act in ways that will put their bodies or their faith at risk.

## **A Word about Correction**

We believe that discipline should be primarily positive. We expect those who work with students to be quick to encourage and affirm positive behavior. We also encourage immediate and consistent response to negative behavior before it escalates into a serious problem.

While in the care of Dawson Leaders, we expect that the students follow the requests and/or instructions given to them by their care provider. Should the student not respond with the instructions given, we will respond as follows:

1. At the first instance of disturbance, the student will be given a warning as correction,
2. At the second instance of disturbance, the student will be separated from his or her peers and the parent will be told of the student's actions,
3. At the third occurrence, the student's parents will be called in for a

conference. If after the conference, the student's behavior does not meet the standards of the Dawson Leader, the child/youth will be removed from the program.

In the instance that the student's actions are so severe, the Dawson Leaders reserve the right to remove the child from the program immediately.

## **Sick Policy**

### **When a Student Should Not Be Brought to a Dawson Program**

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Control of Infectious Diseases of American Academy of Pediatrics, **a student should not be taken from home when any of the following symptoms exist:**

- Fever - currently or within 24 hours
- Vomiting or Diarrhea
- Indication of scarlet fever, German measles, mumps, chicken pox or whooping cough
- Common cold - from onset through one week
- Sore throat
- Croup
- Any unexplained rash
- Skin infection - boils, ringworm, impetigo
- Pink eye or any other eye infection

**If a student has had the following communicable illnesses, he/she will be readmitted to a Dawson Program of care as indicated:**

- Chicken Pox: once all lesions are dry and physician has given permission.
- Impetigo: at least 24 hours after the start of medication. The child should see a physician again if there is no improvement in 48 hours.
- Other skin infections, such as boils, ringworm: following medical treatment; lesions covered.
- Lice and Scabies: following medical treatment; free from nits.
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye): at least 24 hours after the start of medication
- Meningitis: A written consent from child's pediatrician is required.
- Other illnesses, such as scarlet fever, German measles, rubella, mumps, whooping cough, diphtheria, polio, tuberculosis, etc.: A written consent from child's pediatrician is required.

## **Severe Weather Policy**

The Family Recreation Center and the Encounter Program follow suit with Homewood

City Schools and the cancellations and early closing due to severe weather. The FRC also reserves the right to cancel Encounter due to severe weather at the discretion of the Minister of Recreation.