



AWANA CUBBIES

Club Begins Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2017
6:30 – 8:00 pm

Dear Parents,

Welcome to AWANA Cubbies. Cubbies is a division of AWANA Clubs, International, designed especially for three and four year olds (and five year olds who are not yet attending Kindergarten). Cubbies meets each Wednesday night during the school year from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. **Children attending Cubbies must be potty trained. There are no changing facilities in the classrooms and leaders are not able to leave their group of children to take a child up to the nursery to change a diaper.**

Children attending Cubbies must be developmentally ready for group activities including the ability to attend to a circle/story time without one on one attention by a leader. If your child has some special needs that would make this type of attention span or the ability to interact on an age appropriate level with the group difficult, please talk to the Director of Children's Ministries. Together we will determine if the proper accommodations can be made to make Cubbies an effective ministry for your child.

When you arrive at Cubbies each week, you will check in at the Computer Check-in Kiosk. You will receive a printed name tag sticker for your child, and a parent sticker with a corresponding alpha-numeric security code. At pick up each night, leaders will match the code on your tag with the one on your child to make sure children leave with the appropriate adult. Your security code will change each week.

Cubbies club begins each night in your child's small group room, where your child's small group leader will greet and direct your child to a "Coming-In Time" activity. Parents must sign their children in to the classroom each week and include a cell phone number where he/she can be located in case of emergency. There are adult Bible studies and a special group for moms that meet during the club time and you are welcome to attend any of those.

After "Coming-In Time", children will move with their small group leaders to the Clifford Auditorium for "Story Time". This is a special time with our Cubbie Bear puppet, a Bible story, and music.

After "Story Time", children return to their small group room for "Handbook Time". This is the heart of the club night. Each cubbie will have a handbook containing stories, simple activities, and verses. Leaders will review the verse and concept for that week, and give the children a chance to repeat the verse for themselves. Children earn stickers for their books by completing the activity at home and saying the verse to their leaders. Every three to 4 weeks, they will earn patches for their Cubbies vest as they work through the handbook. Children will also complete an activity and play a game designed to reinforce the Bible theme for the evening.

It is important to understand that Cubbies club is a partnership between the home and church. At home during the week, parents will help their child complete one "Bear Hug" section of the handbook. This involves reading a short story from the

handbook with your child and helping him/her complete a simple activity and learn the verse. There is a long version and a short version of many of the verses. We will particularly be working on the short version in club. However, you may choose either version for your child to learn at home. What a simple and special way to work through the Bible with your child! There is a place in the book for a parent to sign when the "Bear Hug" is completed at home. Do only the "Bear Hug" assigned for that week according to a calendar you will receive each month (unless your child has missed club and is making up missed Bear Hugs). If your child wishes to do more, there is an optional section of each "Bear Hug" called "Under the Apple Tree" that you may complete each week with your child. There is also a Review section. You can help your child review a previously learned verse and earn an extra sticker at club. **Be sure that your child brings his/her handbook to club each week.**

During the first two club nights, Cubbies will be working in the "Welcome to Apple Acres" Brochure. We will begin with "Bear Hug A" during club on Sept. 14th. Your child will learn and say the key verse and receive a sticker in club that night. Work on "Bear Hug B" for week two of club. This is our Cubbies Motto - "*Jesus Loves Me.*" Send the Brochure with your child to on the second night of club so he/she can say the motto and receive a sticker. After completing "Bear Hug B", your child will be awarded his/her Cubbies vest and handbook. Second year clubbers may wear their vests from the beginning and will be awarded their new book on the second night of club.

Every few weeks, as children complete a certain number of "Bear Hugs", there will be an award ceremony. This ceremony will take place in the small group rooms at the end of the evening. Watch the calendar for award nights. Parents are welcome to attend and rejoice with their child! If you will be joining us for the award ceremony, please feel free to sit with your child. *If you prefer to observe from the back of the room, please do not talk to other parents standing nearby. This is distracting to the children and leaders and takes away some of the "special" atmosphere an award ceremony should have.*

Cubbies club will end in your child's small group room at 7:55 pm each week. This is five minutes earlier than the other clubs, so parents with more than one child can pick up their "Cubbie" and still have time to pick up other children at 8:00 pm. Clubbers will be dismissed one by one to their parents so we can be sure of their safety. **Please be prompt.** We also ask that you do not linger in the rooms after club since our leaders must pick up their children too.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to work with your child each week. We count it a real privilege! Please feel free to call me if you have questions.

In God's Service,

Bonnie Varney
Cubbies Director / Director of Children's Ministries
Phone: 455-0022 ext. 2120
bonnie@cbcjoy.org