

Procedures for Restroom Use or Showers for Children and Youth Programs/Activities

According to recent studies, the number one place where child on child abuse occurs is in restrooms. Also, because they require privacy, restrooms or showers can be preferred places for offenders of any age.

1. No adult may shower, bathe, or use the restroom facilities in the presence of children or youth.
2. Diapering should be done in diapering stations in close proximity to other care providers. It is not appropriate for diapering to occur behind closed doors or in isolated areas.
3. An adult caregiver/teacher must accompany all children age 2 through kindergarten to the restroom. If facilities are removed from the classroom, the caregiver must check the restroom to see if other adults or older children are present before allowing the child to go in. If there is not a stall in the restroom, the caregiver should stand outside the door while the child uses the bathroom. If there are stalls, the child goes in alone. The caregiver will assist the child only if necessary, in which case the stall door and the outer door shall remain ajar. The caregiver should not go into the restroom with the child and close the door, or into the stall and close the door.
4. If the restroom is in the classroom with only one toilet, the child should go alone into the restroom.
5. To the extent possible, the two plus one rule should be applied with children ages first grade through fifth grade: one adult to two children. Children in this age group may not go to the restroom alone. In no instance should a door be completely closed if adult assistance is needed.
6. When there are special needs or extenuating circumstances, a specific policy may be formulated, approved by the rector and the parent(s) of the child, and implemented with appropriate monitoring and supervision. If assistance is needed in formulating such a policy, please contact the Safe Church Director, the Rev. Deborah Silver, dsilver@episcopalatlanta.org.

All parish policies should reflect the guidelines established in the *Safeguarding God's Children* training and the *Diocese of Atlanta Policies for the Protection of Children and Youth from Abuse*.

