

LifePoint Kids Reopening Safely Plan – Awana In-Person

September 2, 2020



PLAN #1: FULL IN-PERSON AWANA PROGRAM AT 603 NEW LUDLOW RD, CHICOPEE MA.

Section 1: Program Operation – Wednesday evenings, 6:30 – 8.

In order to protect the children, staff, volunteers and parents, the Awana program at LifePoint Church will operate differently this fall and spring than prior years. Our aim is to continue sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with children, in a safe way for everyone involved. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation with these new guidelines. Before a child can attend the Awana program, a parent or guardian must read through these guidelines, and sign a liability waiver.

[Awana – LifePoint Chicopee]

[TNT Club]

- The TNT club will spend the entire 1.5 hours in the auditorium. The kids will be spaced apart by at least six feet. They will sit a minimum of three chairs apart. The large space in the auditorium allows us to have up to 100 people in there at a given time, with social distancing guidelines being followed.
- The kids will all be facing the same direction, anytime they are seated. Boys and girls can be split into the front and back of the auditorium after the large group lesson, and game time.
- The kids will be responsible for bringing their Awana handbook, pencils, and any other materials needed each week. If they forget, we will not be providing extras, in order to minimize contact. (Kids will be given a LifePoint string bag and Awana book during the first week).
- Due to the big area in the auditorium, the TNT program will be capped at 90 kids. If the TNT program cannot use the auditorium, the program will be capped at 20 kids. They will need to use the choir room, stonewall room, and the first room on the left as you enter hallway.

[TNT Club Game Time]

- Games this year will be completely contactless. There will be no equipment, objects or toys being touched.
- Some games will be done while seated, others will involve movement, but there will be limited to no running in the auditorium
- Game time could be shorter than the normal ½ hour, depending on how it goes the first few weeks

[Sparks Club]

- The Sparkies will spend the entire 1.5 hours downstairs in the Fellowship Hall and in the three Sparks classrooms. The kids will be spaced apart by at least three feet. There will absolutely be no more than 5 kids in a classroom.
- The kids will all be facing the same direction, anytime they are seated *less than six feet apart*.
- We are looking into purchasing some small plexiglass to place on tables, to keep kids and leaders safe. This would also allow for a more effective, safer small group time, and for the sharing of memory verses.
- Parents will not be sharing verses *at check-in* this year. *We are working on other arrangements for that.*
- Sparkies will enter through the outside door to the Fellowship Hall and go directly to their grade corners; at 6:30 game time will begin in the Fellowship Hall. At 7 PM, Sparkies will move to their classrooms, one grade at a time, for small group time. At 7:30, they will return to the Fellowship Hall for large group time and dismissal.
- Kids will be responsible for bringing their handbook and needed materials each week. If they forget, we will not be providing extras, in order to minimize contact. (Kids will be given a LifePoint string bag, and Awana book during the first week).
- Due to social distancing, the Sparkie program will be capped at 25 kids

[Sparks Club Game Time]

- Games this year will be completely contactless. There will be no equipment, objects, or toys being touched.
- The games will likely involve movement but not running around the Fellowship Hall.
- Game time could be shorter than the normal ½ hour, depending on how it goes the first few weeks.

[Cubbies]

- Cubbies will be required to bring their own materials each week. Materials will be provided during the first week and may include some craft supplies.
- Cubbies will be split into their three ‘normal’ classrooms, downstairs on the right. Once there, they will remain there for the entire 1.5 hours. Only the teachers will rotate classrooms, if need be.
- There will be no more than 5 Cubbies to a classroom.
- Due to social distancing, the Cubbie program will be capped at 12 kids.

Staffing Plan:

- Adequate leaders will be required each week in order to maintain social distancing, while still having a minimum of 2 adults for every 10 children in a room. Connecting rooms may have one leader in each room with doors kept open, as long as there is an extra volunteer to monitor all three rooms. If there are not enough leaders able to make it, club may need to be cancelled.
- Leaders will be told about and trained with the proper safety protocols for club this year. Leaders will not be able to attend until they go through the proper training.
- Leaders will be responsible for making sure that children are maintaining proper social distancing and for enforcing mask wearing where appropriate.

Section 2: Parent Communication

The goal of the parent communication plan is to ensure every child, leader and family is safe.

1. *Parents MUST communicate with the LifePoint Children's Ministry Director directly, if they, one of their kids or someone else in their household has any COVID-19, cold, or flu like symptoms at any point in time. Please document when the symptoms were first discovered, and how long they lasted.*
2. *Parents MUST communicate with LifePoint Children's Ministry Director directly, if they, one of their kids, or someone in their household tests positive for COVID-19, or is exposed, or has come into contact with someone who tests positive.*
3. *Parents must be able to be reached by cell phone at any point during the 1.5 hours of club.*
4. *Parents are encouraged to communicate any concerns they have. If a parent witnesses any leader or child, failing to follow proper guidelines, they must tell the LifePoint Children's Ministry Director.*

Section 3: Mask Requirements

- Every leader must wear a mask, at all times when in the building, no exceptions.
- TNT & Sparkie boys and girls must wear a mask when in the building, except for when they are seated six feet apart.
- Cubbies will NOT be required to wear a mask. They are allowed too, if a parent chooses.
- There will be no mask breaks. If any leader, or child, absolutely needs a mask break for safety reasons, they must do so outside. If it is a child, they must be accompanied by a leader.
- Masks must completely cover both the nose and mouth.
- Each child is responsible for bringing his/her own mask. If a child forgets a mask, there will be a few on hand at the church.
- If a child is refusing to social distance, or keep his/her mask on, they will be removed from their respective classroom, and brought to a designated room. The parent will be contacted, and the child will wait in that room until the parent arrives. There will be no toys/games/TV in that room.
- If, for whatever reason, a parent needs to be in the building, they will be required to wear a mask.

Section 4: COVID-19 Symptoms

1. *If a child shows any symptoms, at any point in time during a club program, they will be accompanied by a leader and walked over to a designated classroom. The leader will make sure the parent is contacted and will supervise that child from outside of the designated area. There will be no toys/games/TV in that designated room. The parent(s) will then be responsible for communicating with the LifePoint Children's Ministry Director directly, if that child experiences any further symptoms from that point on, leading up to the following club program meeting.*
2. *If a leader shows any symptoms, at any point in time during a club meeting, they will immediately notify the LifePoint Children's Ministry Director and go home.*
3. *If anyone (child, leader, parent...) shows symptoms at any time they may not participate in any LifePoint Church event until they have been symptom free for 3 days or produce a negative test result*

Section 5: In the Instance of a Positive Test...

1. *If anyone (child, leader, parent...) tests positive for COVID-19, they will not be allowed to return until they have completed a ten-day quarantine. They also must produce a negative test result, from a test that was administered after the ten days, before they are allowed to return.*
2. *If anyone (child, leader, parent...) has been exposed to someone who tests positive, they will not be allowed to return until they have completed a ten-day quarantine from the last exposure to the person who tested positive or produce a negative test result.*
3. *If any child who has attended the Awana program in the prior two weeks, tests positive for COVID-19, every family who has attended the Awana Club in the last two weeks will be informed that someone else who attended the Awana Club has tested positive. **The Awana Club will be postponed for a minimum of one week.** The same applies for a parent of a child or a leader who tests positive.*
4. *Again, much of this depends on proper good communication between parents, leaders, and the LifePoint Children's Ministry Director. The LifePoint Children's Ministry Director needs to be made aware of COVID-19 symptoms, COVID-19 positive tests in your household, and/or COVID-19 positive tests that a leader, child, parent, or household member has been exposed to. If the LifePoint Children's Ministry Director cannot be reached within a 24-hour window, please contact the LifePoint Family Ministries Director (contact info below).*
5. *LifePoint Church has a legal obligation to the state, to report any positive tests amongst adults and/or children who have attended any LifePoint Church function, on or off the property.*

Section 6: Privacy Concerns

In the instance that a positive test is discovered amongst someone in the Awana program, or someone in their household, every registered family will be notified. However, neither the identity of the positive person nor their family will be released to other LifePoint families. Again, LifePoint Church has a legal obligation to the state, to report any positive tests amongst adults and/or children who have attended any LifePoint Church function, on or off the property.

Section 7: Restroom and Water Fountain Usage

There will be no restroom breaks. Restrooms will be used on an emergency basis only. Each club will have their own restroom. TNT will use the one upstairs, Sparkies will use the one by the fellowship hall, and Cubbies will use their own restroom in the classroom. No more than one child in a restroom at a time will be allowed.

Water Fountains are OFF limits. Children must bring their own water, if needed.

Section 8: Cleaning and Sanitation

The building is consistently disinfected and will be clean each Wednesday. After club, each area and surface will be appropriately disinfected.

There will be several sanitation stations located throughout the building, including sanitizer in each area where there will be kids and leaders, as well as the entrances/exits.

Section 9: Screening

Children will not be screened for COVID-19 symptoms upon entering the building. This is in response to studies done by area school districts that show that these screenings have a high level of inaccuracy, especially when scanning for a fever. Current screening measures are also unable to detect asymptomatic carries of COVID-19. Again, parents are responsible for contacting the LifePoint Children's Ministry Director if a child is showing symptoms, and to keep their family home that week. If a child is not able to attend school due to illness symptoms, he/she must not attend Awana that week.

Section 10: Check-in / Check-out Process

This new check in, check out process will ensure all safe measures are being taken. If you have children in different clubs, you will still need to walk around the building, to check them in and out in the appropriate area. Thank you for taking the extra time required, in order to maintain a safe check in/out process for all involved.

Check in/out will happen at the appropriate doors. If there is no inclement weather, Sparkie parents will not be allowed inside of the building, in order to prevent additional surfaces from being touched. TNT parents will walk their child into the lobby for check-in, and then follow the arrows leading to the exit by the nursery. Cubbie parents are discouraged from entering, but will be permitted, if they do not feel comfortable leaving their child with a leader at the door. One parent inside per family, please.

***In the event of rain or snow**, one TNT parent per child will be allowed to enter the main lobby area. Parents will be lined up along the wall by the life center, and wrap around the wall down by the nursery. Parents will be spaced six feet apart, and children will be dismissed starting with the parent closest to the outside door. One Sparkie parent per child will be allowed to enter the fellowship hall, and will line up against the wall, six feet apart, behind a divider. Children will be dismissed starting with the parent closest to the outside door.*

If you have multiple kids in different grades in the Awana club, please check-in the youngest children first. Upon checkout, please check out the oldest children first, down to your youngest.

Check In/Out:

- 1. TNT children will check in, and out, using the upstairs entrance into the lobby ONLY. Because people cannot social distance when coming and going on the ramp, TNT parents will walk into the lobby, and follow the arrows to the exit by the nursery. Since these kids will use the auditorium, this will be the only place they are allowed to enter and exit, in order to minimize kids walking around the building, touching surfaces. Masks are required for parents who are inside.*

2. *For the same reason, Sparkie children will check in, and out using the fellowship hall doors, in the back of the church. These are NOT the same doors that are usually used to enter and exit the building, they are off to the right.*
3. *Cubbies ONLY, will check in and out using the normal doors in the back of the building.*
4. *If there is a line for checking in or out, please maintain six feet or more of space between you, and the next family. There will be six feet markers on the ground.*
5. *Please always have an umbrella handy, in the case of inclement weather. Again, Sparkie parents will not be allowed in the building, unless there is inclement weather. If there is inclement weather, the Sparkie check-in and check-out desk will be closer to the kitchen area. Please enter and exit using the doors to the fellowship hall. Should one person be coming in at the same time someone else is going out, a leader will be there to direct traffic, so as to adhere to social distancing.*
6. *Children will not be able to ride home with another friend or family, unless prior consent is given to, and agreed upon, by the LifePoint Children's Ministry Director, and by BOTH families, prior to that night's club.*

Section 11: Registration and Timeline

*Please **pre-register** any children you wish to take part in the Awana program, BEFORE they come to any club meetings. We must put a cap on how many kids we can accommodate, so pre-registration is vital.. **Please note that for this year, we will NOT be charging a registration fee nor collecting weekly dues.** For safety reasons, a child may or may not be permitted at club if they are not pre-registered. Our goal is to begin the Awana program on the first Wednesday in October (Oct 7). This will allow you and your children a few weeks to become adjusted with social distancing and mask protocols being taken in school, should they be attending school in person. That way when they arrive to the Awana club, the adjustment to safety protocols will be minimum. This delayed start also allows us time to see if there is another COVID-19 outbreak in our community as fall begins.*

Summary:

The Awana Club at LifePoint Church takes the COVID-19 pandemic seriously. The safety of the children, families, leaders, and everyone who uses the LifePoint Church facility is a top priority for us. We hope that as we strictly follow all of the state guidelines, as well as adopt a few of our own, you feel comfortable with the measures being taken to keep everyone safe. We understand if you are not yet comfortable bringing your child back to Awana. Again, if there are any concerns you have, please make them known. Our desire is to continue, in a safe way, sharing the life-saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with the children. Please know that as the state continues to adjust guidelines, our safety protocols can change at any time. We will make you aware of any changes. Thank you for continuing to lead your family spiritually. We are here to help you anyway we can.

Contact Information:

LifePoint Children's Ministry Director: Billy Peterson Cell: 508-441-2046 Email: billy.peterson@lifepoint.online
 Awana Commander: Jerry Feldott Cell: 413-221-7466 Email: jrfeldott@gmail.com