

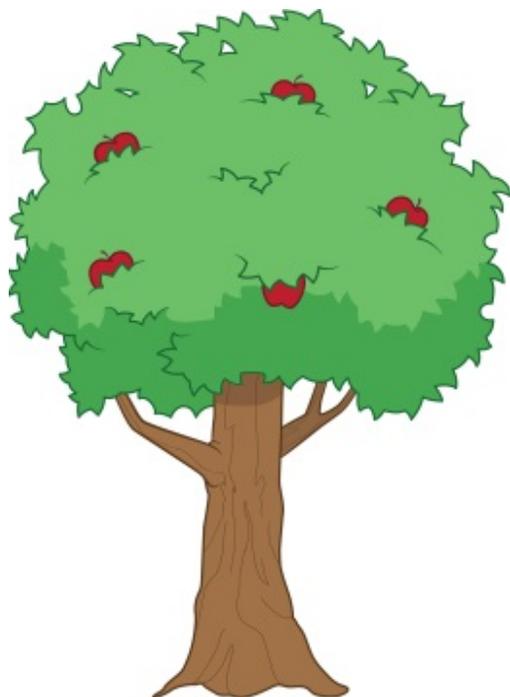


Cubbies

Parent

Handbook

2016-2017





Welcome to Cubbies!!!

We are pleased to have your child in Cubbies this year. It is a pleasure to be part of your child's spiritual growth.

This handbook is designed to give you all the information you will need to have a successful year. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Cubbies Club will be every Tuesday evening with the exception of holidays; please become familiar with our calendar. Cubbies can be dropped off beginning at 6:00 p.m. Please be ready to pick up your child at 7:30 p.m. For safety reasons, we require a parent or another *adult* you designate to come to the Cubbies room to drop off and pick up your child. If you plan to have someone else picking up or dropping off your child, we will need a note from you. We ask that you keep this Parent Handbook as it has important information you will need throughout the year.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year.

Caroline Epps – Cubbies Director

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Miranda Davis - AWANA Commander

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What is Awana?

Awana stands for “**A**pproved **W**orkmen are **N**ot **A**shamed’ (2 Timothy 2:15). Awana was founded in 1950 as an international, nondenominational Bible-centered children’s and youth ministry. The program is committed to evangelism and the discipleship of children and youth. Awana clubs are rooted in the idea that children can have fun while learning God’s Word—that capturing a child’s sense of fun enhances his/her learning.

What does Awana offer my child?

Awana offer many things including: Biblical teaching, the Basics for a relationship with God, a foundation for a biblical worldview, fun physical activity and competition, Bible memorization, friendships, support for parents at they spiritually nature their children, in-club adult affirmations and encouragement, consistent and positive training on how to thrive in group settings and Awards and recognition for accomplishments

What is the goal in Awana?

To **assist** parents in laying the spiritual foundation for their children

To **introduce** and present the gospel to children

To **teach** children to love the Word of God by memorizing it and learning how to use it every day

II Timothy 3:15, “And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

The basics of the Awana program:

Your child will hear the gospel of Jesus Christ

Your child will memorize scripture

Your child will achieve in a handbook appropriate for their age

Your child will receive awards for their achievements in Awana

Your child will earn the privilege of wearing the Awana uniform

Your child will develop important personal strengths such as the value of working towards and achieving goals, value of self-disciplines, to balance social and quiet times.



The Parents Role in Awana

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”

Awana is an excellent resource to help you follow through with this command. Awana Leaders are here to partner with you in the spiritual development of your children, **but you are the one who will make all the difference in the level of impact this program will have in your child's life.**

***Your Commitment determines your child's success!** Successful parents in the Awana program have shown to do all or many of these things:

Attend Parent Night

Know the theme nights and help their children prepare and participate (see calendar)

Encourage their children to invite friends, including picking up and transporting them when needed

Get to know their children's Awana leaders just like they would get to know their school teachers

Keep the church updated with current contact information

Model an attitude of commitment to the program

*We know that it can be tempting to skip a week when you are tired or enroll your child in a sports program, even though practices are on Tuesday nights. We encourage you to consider the bigger picture of being the role model in your child's spiritual development.

Read **12 Ways to Help Your Child Have a Great Year in Awana** by going to www.awana.org/blog/parents. You will find many other helpful articles for parents with kids in all clubs on their website.



Be a Learner

Commit to your own spiritual growth as your child is developing his/her own growth. Awana provides a number of learning and growth options at differing levels of depth and commitment to match your personal journey.

Read your child's handbook- that's right, regardless of your child's age, the first and easiest way to grow is to simply read through your child's handbook section on your own. Initiate casual, age-appropriate conversation with them about it. Challenge yourself to memorize the scriptures along with your child. When reading/memorizing the verses ask yourself (and your child two questions:

1st What does this verse teach me about God, his characteristics, his qualities?

2nd How can this verse influence how we live?

Awana At Home Parent Handbooks- ideal if your child is in Sparks or T&T. You'll enjoy rich adult Bible training that follows your child's handbook curriculum and be on track to memorizing the same scriptures your child is. **BONUS**- at the end of each section your child can sign off on YOUR handbook! Kids love this part and what an example it shows to them!!

Awana At Home- offered through the Awana website, this program offers visionary resources and tools for a Christ-centered home.

<http://store.awana.org/store/Awana%20at%20Home/family-at-home,default,sc.html>

Get involved, Be a Leader

The best way to show your child that you are invested is to join the Awana Team! We are looking for committed leaders that will be consistent throughout the year. Opportunities range from leading worship, animated Bible stories, helping with games, keeping records and distributing awards, or meeting one on one with a child to listen to their verses and sign their handbook.

Email Miranda Davis, Commander, at awana@cornerstonepoway.org. *All leaders are screened

according to the requirements of Cornerstone Church.





About the Cubbies Program

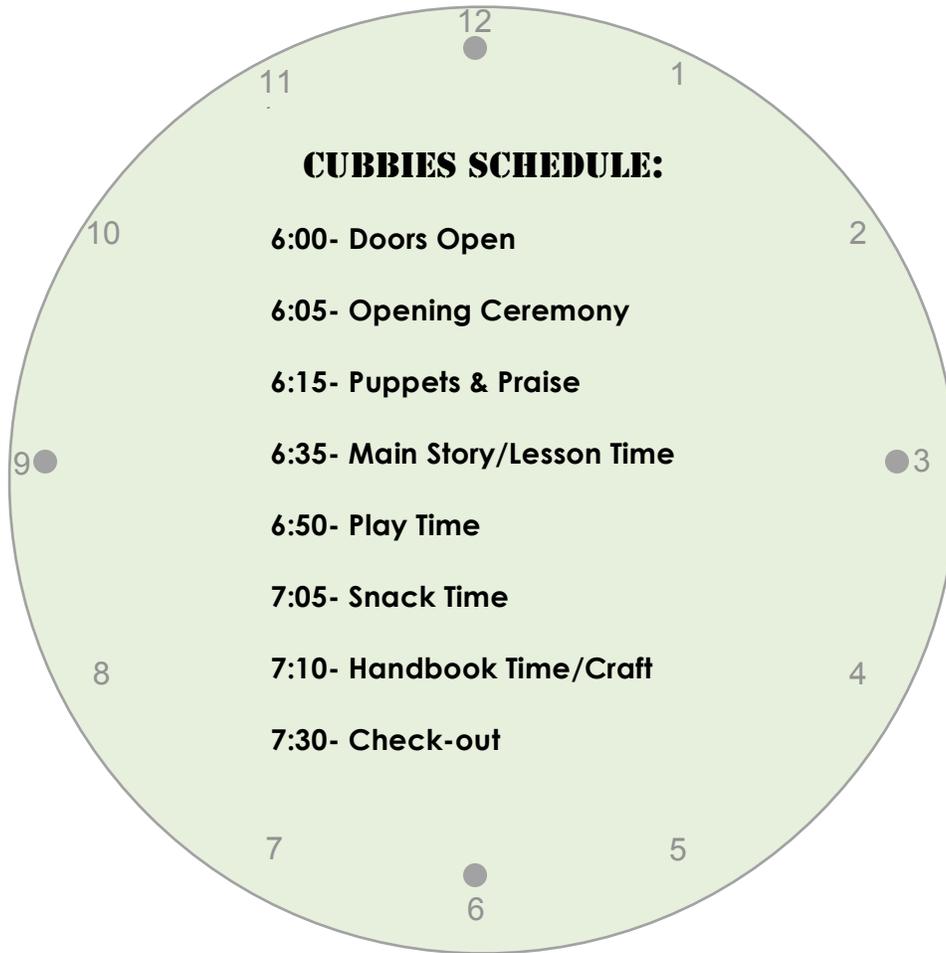
Awana Cubbies is a two-year weekly club program for preschoolers in the **two years prior to kindergarten**. Our purpose is to help your child take their first little step on a lifelong journey. In the Bible, parents are instructed to teach their children about God's word, little by little, day by day. The Cubbies program is designed to help leaders and parents in this critical role.

Club time is broken down into 7 areas. These areas tie in together to assist the Cubbie with a better understanding of the scheduled verse.

- Opening Ceremony
- Puppets & Praise
- Story/Lesson Time:
- Play Time
- Snack Time
- Handbook and Craft Time
- Check-Out

Teaching begins at home. Each week, the parents help their Cubbie complete the scheduled Bear Hug. Each part of the Bear Hug reinforces the same Bible truth. At club, we will center everything we do on the same truth you have already worked on at home. Our story, games, craft, and even our snack will reinforce the teaching your child has received from you. By creating this partnership, we hope to really "cement" that week's truth into our Cubbies' minds and hearts.





ABSENCES

We understand that family life is busy, kids get sick and that things come up. The Awana program is built on consistency and gives awards to those that come on a regular basis. Students are allowed one excused absence per quarter to still receive their attendance award.



About the Cubbies Materials

APPLE ACRES BROCHURE

A brochure containing two sample Bear Hugs, as well as basic information about the Cubbies program. All Cubbies will complete this first each year.

CUBBIES HANDBOOK – AppleSeed & **HoneyComb**

We do one book per year; it includes memory verses and activities divided into weekly Bear Hugs that teach basic truths about God. Cubbies complete each week's Bear Hug at home as background for the teaching at club the next week. They then repeat the memory verse to their leader at club. **Completing every Bear Hug in the book is a requirement for earning patches throughout the year and a Cubbie book award at the end of the year.** Each Bear Hug contains an optional Review section and Under the Apple Tree supplemental section.

Cubbies Extras

Optional Items:

❖ Cubbies Handbook Music CD	\$10.00
❖ Cubbie Bear Stuffed Toy	\$15.00
❖ Cubbie T-Shirt	\$15.00
❖ Cubbie Flexible Pin Large	\$4.00
❖ Cubbie Bendy Pen	\$3.00
❖ Cubbie Sticky Notepad	\$3.00
❖ Cubbie Key Chain	\$ 3.00
❖ Cubbie Cup	\$2.00
❖ Replacement Patches	\$1.00



Tips on How Parents Can Help

- Help your child learn weekly Bear Hug
- Establish a regular time to work on the Bear Hug with your child...morning and evening
- Check the schedule for what Bear Hug to work on for the next week
- Read each week's Bear Hug to your child and follow the instructions
- Listen to your child recite the verse and **sign your name.**
- Be encouraging!
- Only one Bear Hug will be done per week.
- Other fun ways to work on scripture memorization: sing the verse song from the Cubbie CD's, create a game, record the clubber while reciting the verse and allow them to replay it over and over, memorize the verse with them
- Assist your Cubbie with practical application of the verse by retelling the story from the lesson, reading the story from an illustrated Children's Bible, discussing the verse and what it means to them.



Take a turn supplying a snack

- You can help by providing a snack for the children in our Cubbies Club; this is a favorite part of the night. If you are able, we ask you to sign up for two nights per year.
 - We generally have a specific request for snack to fit into our theme for the night.
- Please look over the snack schedule. If you do not approve of your child eating particular snacks or if they have food allergies, please bring a snack for your child.**

- Your child will be designated the "Cubbie of the Week" when it is your week to supply snack. Your child will take home a stuffed Cubbie, and a reminder of the snack you signed up for, and return it the next club night. Please be sure to return Cubbie, so the next "Cubbie of the Week" can take him home as well.

Parent Night 😊

-Every week our Cubbies have an evening full of fun and games geared towards inscribing the memory verse in their hearts. It is our desire for parents to not only hear about their fun and meet their special friends, but participate as well. We are requesting Cubbie parents to join us on October 11 for an evening in the classroom. Come experience firsthand what Cubbies is all about!

Scripture Memorization

APPLE ACRES BROCHURE

Each Cubbie will be given a brochure at Family Night, which needs to be complete by the second week of club. The brochure must be finished before work in the handbook may begin.

HANDBOOK ESSENTIALS

FIRST(required)- All Cubbies will complete one Bear Hug lesson assigned for the week. If your child has missed a week of club, complete the current week's Bear Hug, then work on making up any missed Bear Hugs. Since we dedicate an entire night to teaching about the scheduled verse, we ask for you to not move ahead in your book. Continued repetition of the verse will assist your Cubbie with lifelong memorization.

SECOND (optional)- Bear Hug Review Sections may be done after the current Bear Hug and any missed Bear Hugs are completed. When you complete a review verse, and sign it, your child will receive one of three stickers for their review section in their book.

THIRD (optional)- Under the Apple Tree may be done after the current Bear Hug, any missed Bear Hugs and the current review verse. When you complete an activity, review past verses, and sign it, your child will receive a golden apple sticker for their book.



Cubbie Bear Buddy Rules



1. Listen and don't talk when a leader is talking.
2. Raise your hand when you have something to say or to answer a question.
3. Fold our hands in our laps during Story Time and prayer.
4. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
5. Follow the 5 count rule; when a leader counts slowly to five, your clubber will quiet down and be ready for instruction.

Discipline

We recognize that Cubbies is often your child's first structured classroom setting. We appreciate this unique opportunity to help train your children in appropriate classroom behavior. Because we have 8-10 Cubbies in each room, order is essential. If we find that your child is having a hard time following our rules, we will ask one of the parents to join us during the next club time. We'd love your feedback on what works well for your child, and we'd also love to have your support to help your child understand the rules we have.

If your child is still struggling, depending on the circumstances, we may ask you to try again the following year. Sometimes we find that some children are just too young for such a structured setting.



Discipline (continued):

We hope you understand the need for behavior standards in Awana Clubs. We always try to remember that children are children...and will act like children. Occasionally, we experience disruptions that make it challenging for the group to thrive in the program. Awana Clubs uses two methods of discipline:

FIVE COUNT- The five-count is the primary way leaders keep order in a group. The leader in charge will count to five slowly and loudly, and the leaders and clubbers respond by being quiet and still by the count of five. This is used in any club segment when a leader needs the group's attention. When a team responds to the five-count quickly, they are awarded with extra points.

THREE COUNT- On the occasion that an individual child continually misbehaves, the three-count is used.

1st COUNT: When a child acts inappropriately after gentle reminders, their leader gives them a one count

2nd COUNT: If the child continues to create disturbances and disobey leaders, they are given a two count.

This results in a caring conversation with the Club Director

The child is told specifically what behavior is being addressed and what is expected of them. The Director may use scripture to further the understanding of the expectation.

The child is asked if they understand the rules and the expected behavior. If they don't, it will be explained again.

After the discussion, if the child is receptive, the Director will pray with the child. Each week, every child begins with a clean slate.

3rd COUNT: If a child fails to correct their behavior and continues to create problems, then they will be given the third count.

If we find that your child is having a hard time following our rules, we will ask one of the parents to join us during the next club time. We'd love your feedback on what works well for your child, and we'd also love to have your support to help your child understand the rules we have.

Parents will be asked to work with their child in order to develop some strategies to ensure that the problem does not happen again.

Communication of love and forgiveness is critical in the Three Count. Our goal is to make the evening enjoyable and safe for all involved!



Attendance

- ❖ Cubbies that have less than 2 unexcused absences per semester will be receiving a special sticker
- ❖ Cubbies that have less than 2 unexcused absences for Sunday School will be receiving a Sunday School attendance sticker. If you were absent from Cubbies but attended Sunday School, please let us know otherwise we will assume your child was absent from both.
- ❖ If your child has been sick or your absence was unavoidable, please bring a note in to your classroom secretary so she can excuse your absence. Please note that frequent family vacations are not excused.

Awana Sunday

Every second Sunday of the month is Awana Sunday! All clubbers and leaders are to wear their uniforms to Church and Sunday School, so we can show everyone how proud we are of our amazing club! Be sure to encourage your Cubbie to share about all their accomplishments.



Cubbie Patch Placement

Throughout the year, patches are handed out on Patch Award Night for completion of Bear Hug Lessons. For your convenience, we will be placing all round patches on your child's uniform using Badge Magic the same evening. If you prefer to NOT have this service, please inform us the first night of club.



Proper patch placement is located in the back of the Cubbie Handbook



Question and Answers

What happens if my Cubbie forgets their verse at club?

- Cubbies are required to recite the verse for the evening and any missed verses to their leader at Table Time. They are given 2 helps if needed. Four year olds are required to memorize the reference as well as the verse.

What if my Cubbie is too shy and will not say the verse to a leader?

- Most Cubbies are shy at first, but then as coming to club becomes more of a routine and they become familiar with their leaders, they open up. If this does occur, we ask the parent to come in the room and the Cubbie may recite the verse to a parent with the leader present. Continue to remind and encourage that they will be rewarded for their verse memorization.

When I leave, my child begins to cry; I can't allow them to continue.

-If this is your child's first time coming into a structured room, it may be difficult for them when first adjusting but we ask for you to not give up! New faces and situations are scary for people of all ages; children are just better at showing their nervousness rather than hiding it. Let us work together to make your child comfortable.

What if my child has an accident?

-We ask that ALL CUBBIES be potty trained upon entrance to the Cubbie program. Cubbie leaders will not be responsible for changing diapers or pull-ups. Accidents do happen. If they do, we will call the parent (YOU), and will have loaner clothes for your child which we will ask you to launder and return the following club night.

What if I want to bring a different snack?

-We desire the entire night to be based around the theme verse. The snack ties into that verse, so we ask you to stick with the scheduled snack if possible.



Final Thought...

Our goal is for your Cubbie to be successful with their scripture memorization and never intimidated, as this is the beginning to a lifelong walk with the Lord.

We have all been led by the Lord to serve and love your children and are overjoyed to have been given this amazing opportunity. It is our prayer that by the end of the year, your Cubbie will have a better understanding of who God is, the importance of Jesus and salvation, and why scriptures are important to remember. We are excited to have fun with your Cubbie while making these Bible stories become reality.

