

Sensory and other information

Uptown is a highly interactive and very sensory stimulating children's environment here at Redeemer. There are bright colors, murals, indoor playground (utica only), kid centered activities, music, video, and more. We have a lot going on. We understand that such an environment, while no problem for most children, can be difficult for those with special needs, particularly those with sensory challenges.

We want you and your child to have a better understanding of what an Uptown experience is like so together we can decide if a one-on-one buddy in a typical Uptown environment is best or our service within Up Club is best.

Uptown Environments

Crawlers and Walkers

Our Crawlers and Walkers Nursery offers a safe, clean, fun environment for our littlest ones. This area is characterized by caring for children and showing God's love through song and play. This environment is designed for kids through 23 months old.

Lower Elementary

2nd Ave and 3rd St. is specially designed for curious 2 (24 months) and 3 year olds (47 months). Each environment is designed to engage children's senses and provide a fun environment where they can learn about how God created them and that He has a plan for them. Promotion to and from each of these classes is based on a child's age and development. 4th Place is a bright, colorful and fun place to be. 4 year olds will find a creative environment that will engage them and help them become who God wants them to be.

Sensory information includes:

Sound - Music, video, children speaking

Visual - murals on the wall, props, TV, DVD player, toys, children/staff

Touch - carpeted, but hard floors

Elementary

Oneway is designed for children age 5 through 3rd grade

Junction addresses the specific needs of 4th through 5th graders. Junction serves as a powerful tool to connect kids to God and each other as well as prepare them for Launch (*6th - 8th grade Middle school ministry on Wednesday nights*) and Encounter (*9th - College Age ministry on Wednesday nights*).

These environments are designed for high impact energy and where the Bible is taught through engaging stories, videos, fun and engaging worship songs with motions and

movement. Oneway and Junction is where children are first introduced to meeting in small groups and beginning to build relationships with each other and leaders while learning about God.

Sensory information for Oneway includes:

Sound - music, video, staff uses microphones

Visual - murals on walls, a stage, props, video screen, children/staff.

Touch - carpeted, but hard floors

Sensory information for Junction includes:

Sound - music, video, staff uses microphones, TV, DVD player, video games

Visual - murals on walls, a stage, props, video screen, TV, DVD player, video games, pool table, ping pong table, children/staff.

Touch - plastic tiles, but hard floors

Other information and service elements

Jungle Gym (Utica)

The gym includes an enclosed slide, padded rollers, plastic tubes, padded ramps, various levels of platforms, and large “therapy” style balls.

This is available to all kiddo’s after services with the supervision of their parents. In our lower elementary environments each class has a 20 minute period of play during the service.

Sensory information includes:

Sound - noise level can be high depending on the number of kids present.

Visual - bright colors of playground equipment, children moving, and heights.

Touch - hard plastic, rubber balls, padded apparatus, may come into contact with other children. Casual social interactions involved as well.

Greeting/Prayer/Rules (Oneway/Junction)

Usually, in Oneway we start with a game and move into our small groups. In Junction, we start with some free time using video games, ping pong, pool, etc... After that there is a greeting and we will go over the rules (video or live).

Sensory information includes: See Oneway and Junction above

Offering

Kiddo's have the opportunity to bring their tithe and/or offering to God. Sometimes this will happen in small group and other times in Large Group.

Worship

Uptown team members lead the kids in worship through singing and dancing. Words to the songs and pictures are broadcast on a large video screen. Team members will model a dance or hand movements for the children to imitate.

Sensory information includes: See Oneway and Junction above with the addition that the music and singing can be loud.

Large Group Teaching

Uptown's Bible Story of the day is presented to the full group. The presentation can vary from week to week, but can include a skit, puppet show, and interactive game, storytelling, a video, object lesson, discussion, question and answer, or any combination. One or more staff stands on the stage using microphones to speak. Children may be encouraged to answer questions, engage in movement, speak out loud or sometime yell.

Small Group Activity

Children are divided into small groups based on grade level. Each group has an Uptown Small Group Leader who leads them through activities based upon the Bible Story discussed in Large Group. Activities vary from week to week, but can include crafts, games, discussion, and questions and answer. Age appropriate reading, writing, and drawing are also utilized. Also, teamwork, problem solving, close proximity, sharing, and communication with peers. Groups in Oneway are separated by grade and are seated on the floor.

Sensory information includes: (Also see Oneway and Junction above)

Sound - staff/children speaking, background noise from other groups, background music

Smell - some art materials

Touch - glue, play doh, crayons, paper, art supplies, markers, the floor