

Director of Children's Ministry

First Evangelical Free Church (First Free) in Chicago, IL has a long history of joining God at work in Chicago. The church was planted in 1880 and came to its current home in the Andersonville neighborhood in the early 1900s. We have remained in the city, committed to discipleship and mission. We praise God for the many people he has called out of our congregation to start nonprofit organizations or serve full-time in intercultural missions. Our vision is to *celebrate lives transformed by Christ*.

Andersonville has recently been named the “second coolest neighborhood in the world” by Time Out (www.timeout.com/coolest-neighbourhoods-in-the-world) and it's a progressive, affluent, post-Christian neighborhood with young families, singles, and a large LGBTQ community. It really is a special place to do urban ministry, and as such, it requires us to think creatively and compassionately in all our ministry efforts.

In April of 2022, First Free called a new senior pastor, and the church is now in a new season of life together, discerning our vision and values afresh. We are a congregation of about 150 people, with 30-50 of those being children on any given Sunday.

The Director of Children's Ministry can be either a part-time 15 hour per week position without housing, *or* a 30 hour per week position including housing (a 2-bedroom apartment) on First Free's campus in the Andersonville neighborhood (beginning September 2022).

Job Summary:

The Director of Children's Ministry will serve primarily by:

- *Curating* and *planning* age appropriate curriculum for the spiritual formation of our children
- *Recruiting* and *scheduling* volunteers for nursery (Ages 0 - 3) and classrooms (Age 4 - 1st grade, and 2nd - 5th grade).

- *Training and supporting* volunteer teachers
- *Connecting with and empowering* parents to be the primary agents of faith formation for their children

If interested in the position at 30 hours a week, responsibilities will be expanded to match the skillset and gifting of the candidate, as well as the needs of the congregation.

Personal Qualifications:

1. Has a personal, active and growing relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
2. Energetic, warm and able to share the love of Jesus to children and their families.
3. Emotionally healthy and mature.
4. Able to balance work and family.
5. Physically capable of sustained activity.

Professional Qualifications:

1. Knowledge and experience in Biblical interpretation, child development (and faith development) and religious educational theory and practice.
2. Seeks opportunities to grow professionally.
3. Experience leading and/or serving in Children's Ministry
4. B.A.; Church, Christian Ed., Children's Ed., or other relevant degree

How to apply

1. Go to firstfree.com, review our Statement of Faith under the "About Us" tab. If there are any questions, concerns, or reservations please mention them in the application.
2. Complete the job application Google form by following this link <https://forms.gle/gwTJckh3y6ysJ3EBA>

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JOB DESCRIPTION

The children's ministry director will be the lead servant in creating an atmosphere that makes space for children and their families to experience:

- Belonging *to a hospitable community*
 - Children and their parents should feel welcomed, invited into a safe space to be known and loved by God and one another
- Being *with God*
 - Children are invited to grow in intimacy with Christ through prayer, worship, and hearing the Good News that they are loved by God
- Becoming *like Jesus*
 - Children are invited to know, trust, and love the person and way of Jesus Christ, not just learning *about* Him, but becoming *like* Him through age-appropriate spiritual practices
- Bringing *Shalom*
 - Children and their parents are invited to put their faith into practice in acts of kindness, evangelism, and justice, partnering with God in the renewal of all things.

This will be put into practice primarily by:

- *Curating* and *planning* age-appropriate curriculum for the spiritual formation of our children
- *Recruiting* and *scheduling* volunteers for nursery (Ages 0 - 3) and classrooms (Age 4 - 1st grade, and 2nd - 5th grade).
- *Training* and *supporting* volunteer teachers
- *Connecting* with and *empowering* parents to be the primary agents of faith formation for their children

Additional responsibilities include:

- Develop annual ministry goals alongside the Senior Pastor and Deacons of Children and Family Ministry
- Seek and participate in opportunities to learn, grow, and educate others about the spiritual formation of children
- Collaborate with the Senior Pastor and Director of Worship on ways the children can be involved in our Sunday gatherings
- Attend weekly staff meetings
- Make recommendations for Children and Family Ministry (CFM) annual budget and oversee its use
- Maintain and ensure safety of the children and those who serve with children by following Child Protection Policy guidelines
- Oversee Planning Center Online (PCO) Child check-in system and its various components
- Recruit, train, and develop volunteers to be healthy, mature, and wise in ministry, including clear role descriptions and expectations for every CityKids teacher and volunteer