

Dear Parents,

As the coordinator of child care for the upcoming conference, I am excited to meet your children and guide them to learn ways to “Joyfully Follow Jesus by Sharing God’s Love.” A refreshing team of adults is coming together to make these two days of joy, learning, sharing, and connecting.

We will provide childcare in a room very near the meeting areas on campus. This will be our “home base” and where the very young will spend the majority of their time. A quiet zone for rest and naps will exist. We will have activity areas here that target our primary children’s mission as well. From here we may go outside (weather permitting), and we have scheduled a major outing each day for the school-aged children.

Our primary children’s mission helps us share God’s love by supporting the Care Bag Foundation. This was established by a young child in 2000 to provide comfort and inspire hope to displaced, abused, and disadvantaged children worldwide. Annie, the founder, has a heart of service. As a child herself, she became concerned about the children her mother (a social worker) was helping. Her desire to help one child being placed into foster care led to her creating a bag of essential, safe, fun, and age-appropriate items to send with her own mom to help comfort the child. Her mission grew and continues today, having reached over 23,000 children. Please go to www.carebags4kids.org and check this out. Activities in the child care area will primarily create items for these bags.

Friday’s outing will be either to Living History Farms if the weather permits or the Science Center of Iowa if it doesn’t. Again, you find both of these on-line. Living History Farms is a working exhibit which shares the growth of our state, and farming through time. The Science Center is filled with diverse activities that help children explore the wonders of God’s creations.

Saturday’s outing will be to help Annie fill bags for Care Bags. Annie is an elementary teacher and is adept at showing school-aged children what they can do to help.

We will expect the children to arrive between 8 and 8:30; be picked up by parents for lunch at 12 and returned at 1:00 on Friday. The school children will have lunch with their Saturday outing. Children need to be picked up at 5:00 each afternoon. Morning and afternoon snacks will be provided.

I sincerely hope that you consider attending conference, knowing that your children will be getting the best care and attention we can provide. Further details will be provided after registration.

Peace, Grace, and Joy

Dr. Esther Streed