

ALLIANCE
AVIATORS
HANDBOOK



MISSION

Reach People. Pursue Christ.

MESSAGE

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-7)

“Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’” (Matthew 19:13-14)

MODEL

We are an authentic community of faith doing life together in Jesus’ name.

MEASURE

Making more and better disciples.

CORE QUALITIES

We love God.

We are teachable.

We work hard.



YOUNGER
PRESCHOOL



Younger Preschool are:

developing a sense of trust as needs are met consistently

sensing attitudes and expression of love

growing in trust of adults

beginning to distinguish between acceptable and unacceptable behaviors

singing simple songs about God and Jesus

MIDDLE
PRESCHOOL



Middle Preschool are:

identifying some Bible people and stories

understanding that God, Jesus, and the church are special

beginning to develop a conscience and sensitive to feelings of shame and guilt

retelling Bible stories

recognizing that God and Jesus love people and help people in special ways

expressing love for God and Jesus

OLDER PRESCHOOL



Older Preschool are:

- remembering Bible stories
- recognizing how God and Jesus love people
- seeing how God helps people in special ways
- using the Bible to ask questions about God
- making life application of Bible verses
- seeing Jesus as a friend and a helper
- starting to make conclusions about God

YOUNGER KIDS



Younger Kids are:

- enjoying learning from the Bible
- beginning to have a simple understanding of sin and consequences
- beginning to have a simple understanding of the gospel
- knowing the right answers but may not understand application
- interested in finding out more about God and Jesus and His plan of salvation
- using the Bible to ask about God

MIDDLE KIDS



Middle Kids are:

- asking serious questions about religion
- developing values
- learning about being truthful and honest
- having difficulty making decisions
- beginning to feel the need for a Savior
- growing conscious of themselves and of sin
- wanting to do things the right way

PRETEEN



Preteen are:

- developing concepts of love and trust
- hearing their conscience
- developing a value system
- forming concepts of personal worth
- seeking spiritual answers
- feeling deeply about their own experiences
- beginning to adopt a religious belief system of their own

Where Do You Fit Into All of This?

Here's a quick look at how you can invest and connect in Aviators:

GREETERS

Set the culture of relationships and safety as soon as families arrive.

BABIES

Create a safe and loving environment for babies and begin the partnership between families and ACF.

SMALL GROUPS

Invest in a small group of kids (preschool, elementary or preteen) and help lead them to the purpose God has for their lives by partnering with their parents.

ADMIN

Assist in preparing materials outside Sunday mornings that fosters discipleship in kids.



LEAD SMALL

The five big ideas every small group leader needs to know:

1. BE PRESENT

Connect their faith to a community. When you show up on a regular basis and are prepared to lead, you create relationships that allow kids to truly begin to live like followers of Christ.

- Show up **consistently**.
- Show up **mentally**.
- Show up **randomly**.

2. CREATE A SAFE PLACE

Clarify their faith as they grow. Kids will trust you because you're in an Aviators shirt. It's your responsibility to create a safe environment for them by:

- Following the *Safety Non-Negotiables*.
- Always making them feel accepted.
- Creating a comfortable place for kids to share.
- Showing appropriate affection by not allowing kids 2 years old and older to sit in your lap or carrying them around.

3. PARTNER WITH PARENTS

Support an everyday faith. As you learn the kids' names, also create relationships with their parents. Ask them what's going on in their child's life. Think about how you can reinforce what's going on in their family. No matter what, a child's parents (not their church) will always be the biggest influence in their lives in every way—especially spiritually. So, if we (the church) want to see kids become fully devoted followers of Christ, doesn't it make sense for us to partner with the most powerful, influential people in their lives to make it happen?

4. MAKE IT PERSONAL

Inspire their faith by your example. When you model what becoming a fully devoted follower of Christ looks like in your own life, it makes it personal for your small group.

Ways you can be an example:

- Spend time with God **daily** through prayer and Scripture.
- Regularly **attend** a weekend service at ACF.
- Participate in **Group Life**.
- Consistently **invite** people to church.

5. MOVE THEM OUT

Engage their faith in a bigger story.

Move them to **be the Church**.

The Church is more than just a building or a location. The Church is a growing, changing, moving, living being that your kids get to be a part of. Never underestimate the importance of letting them pass out sticker sheets in Aviators, participate in telling the Bible story, or greet new kids. The options are endless.

Move them to **what's next**.

No matter what's next in their lives, do everything you can to set them up for that transition and make sure it goes as smoothly as possible.

EXPECTATIONS

As a leader, you're visible in your community.

Your words, choices, and relationship with God will be carefully observed and mirrored by the kids and families you influence.

No one is perfect, but leaders should strive to make wise decisions that glorify God.

Through your life and choices, be an example of someone who is becoming a fully devoted follower of Christ every day.

- Show commitment to becoming a fully devoted follower of Christ.
- Be passionate about the mission of ACF.
- Serve on a weekly or bi-weekly basis.
- Invite kids and parents to join you!
- Be friendly and greet every parent, kid, grandma, and quirky uncle.
- Wear your Aviators t-shirt and name tag every week.
- Attend weekly Huddle Times before service.
- Practice safety with kids at all times.

SAFETY NON-NEGOTIABLES

TWO ADULT POLICY

There must be at least two adults (above 18 years old) in a room at all times. This ensures the safety of our kids and maintains accountability in the room.

CHECK-IN AND CHECK-OUT POLICY

We must make sure all kids are properly checked into Planning Center and wearing their nametag prior to entering an Aviators room. This indicates to the family that we will take care of them and make sure they are completely safe. In every situation, we will make sure every kid gets checked out properly by matching the parent's security tag to the kid's nametag.

If there are any issues, notify an ACF staff member.

RESTROOM POLICY

If a bathroom is provided within the room, the restroom door must remain ajar for preschool-age kids. If the child using the restroom is female and assistance is required, the leader who is providing assistance **MUST** be a female and the door **MUST** remain ajar. If a bathroom is not provided within the room, two adult Aviators leaders must escort the child to the restroom. Again, if assistance is required the restroom door **MUST** remain ajar.

At no time should a Student Leader escort a child to the restroom or should any child be left unattended.

MANDATORY REPORTING

Report suspected or actual abuse to an ACF staff member immediately.

Roles in Aviators

Now that you've learned all about Aviators, here are some specifics about each age group so you can decide which is the best fit for you:

0 - 23 MONTHS

- Love and care for babies while learning their names.
- Begin a relationship with each parent.

2 YEARS OLD – 5 YEARS OLD

- Lead a Small Group and remember the names of your small group and say hello to their parents.
- Lead through every section of the curriculum provided, don't leave any out.

KINDERGARTEN - 6TH GRADE

- Be prepared to invest in your small group every week.
- Be yourself and bring the ENERGY!

AVIATORS COACHES

- Communicate, train, and coach well.
- Build relationships with Aviators Leaders.

GREETERS

- Smile! Greet every family. Don't be creepy or scary.
- Don't just point every family to their destination; walk them there.

STUDENT LEADERS

- Must be a student in 6th-12th grade.
- Invest in the lives of kids ages 2 years old and up.



ALLIANCE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP