



# Families & Caregivers

## Info for Long Term Orientation

### Welcome

We would like to extend a special welcome to families with children. We recognize the special gift of children and firmly believe that families can be ministers of the Gospel together. The example of our family units can show the love of Jesus practically as Jesus said, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." You will most likely find that your children have a way of naturally opening doors to speak to people that would have felt awkward otherwise. By bringing your children to NYC for six weeks you can include them in ministry and allow them to also see God's heart for various peoples.

At the same time, we also recognize the challenges children and parents face during time away from "home" and the change of parents being in full time school. So here are a few tips to make your family's stay in NYC more enjoyable.

### Childcare & Application Process

Each family will need a caregiver to take care of their children for the majority of each day. We ask that you give us suggestions for the caregiver for your children. It is ideal to find a caregiver that your children already know and who your children are comfortable with, possibly a relative or close friend. It is highly recommended that this caregiver serve for the entire six weeks. After finding a prospective caregiver, please send us their email address and we will send them an application before they can be approved.

### Accommodations

All lodging is very tight in the city. Families with 1-2 small children will get a small bedroom. All restrooms are shared with other students. Several small porta-cribs are available for infants. Bring a minimal number of items as there is no space to store large items in our facility.

All laundry will be done at the local laundromat so doing laundry more than once a week can be challenging.

Most of day-to-day transportation is done by walking and mass transit so bring strollers for your small children. We have no space for large strollers so make sure any stroller collapses to a small size. Umbrella strollers are preferred.

Three full meals per day are provided on week days. Brunch is provided on Saturdays. Leftovers are available for the remainder of the weekend.

## Homework Expectations for Mothers

We understand that mothers cannot completely quit their “job” while at Long Term Orientation. We encourage mothers to participate as much as possible in the training while not neglecting their children. We have made a few adjustments in the homework expectations for mothers.

**Before arriving:** Mothers only need to complete the key readings in Perspectives Course.

**During training:** Mothers are only required to read four books instead of the normal six. One term paper can be completed as a couple. Additional schedule variations can be discussed with the director.

## Schedule

These six weeks are very full for families. We recommend not planning additional activities during the weekends or time here.

### Daily Student Schedule

7 am: Breakfast  
8 am: Worship  
9am: Classes  
12:30: Lunch  
1:45: Classes  
3:00: Outreach  
5:30: Supper

### Daily Caregiver & Children Schedule

As we all know, children thrive on routine. We highly recommend that caregivers establish a good routine as early as possible.

*Breakfast:* Join parents

*Morning:* Storytime and playtime led by caregivers.

- Storytime: bring a few of your favorite story books. Teach them a few songs or Bible verses.
- Playtime: We encourage the caregivers to take the children to a local park or playground each morning. There are locations within walking distance. Bring a few activities/crafts/fun things for those days when weather doesn't permit outside play.

*Lunch:* Join parents

*Afternoon:* Nap, Quiet Time

*Outreach:* Children may be able to join parents some days.

*Supper:* Join parents

## Things to Bring

In addition to the regular items to bring for LTO we encourage you to consider some of these items:

- Fun items to take to the park or play on the sidewalk such as bubbles, sidewalk chalk, balls, balloons
- Small activities that can be done indoors (esp on rainy or cold days) such as craft kits, stickers, playdoh, educational activity books.
- Games, Legos, puzzles, or a few small toys
- Books - children love a good story time
- Small backpack to carry the necessities for children
- Stroller for small children. Rain covers optional.
- Small Compact Umbrellas
- Good walking shoes/sandals

Feel free to contact us with any questions! We would gladly talk through some of the challenges or questions you have.

*The Staff Team at MTC*