

Questions: 1. Should the Sabbath school rooms of our church be used for day-care purposes?


March 4, 1988

2. How should we relate to the hours on Friday evening when the Sabbath begins before parents arrive to pick up their children?

10704 NE Wygant  
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Dear Sister

We have received your letter of February 25, in which you asked for comments from Ellen White that might be helpful as you decide about the establishment of a day care center.

I am sorry to have to tell you that there is nothing in the Ellen G. White writings, as far as I know, that would answer the two questions you raised. However, I just telephoned my son in West Virginia and talked to him about the questions you asked in your letter. 

Within the last two years or so the Summersville, West Virginia, church has opened a day care center, and within the last twelve months they have erected a separate building for this purpose. When they began their program, they used one of the Sabbath school rooms. My son said that the only problems they ran into were that sometimes the teachers in the day care center did not clean things up like they should have. This meant that the Sabbath school teachers found the room in a somewhat disorderly state at times. However, now that they have a separate building--which, incidentally, has cost about \$150,000--they do not have that kind of problem any more.

They have, however, been confronted with the problem of taking care of the children after the Sabbath hours on Friday afternoon in the winter time. The church board decided that they will charge the normal fees for the children who stay until 5:30 p.m. on Friday. They also inform all the parents involved that after 3:30 on Friday religious services will be conducted, which are somewhat like our vacation Bible school programs. They do not attempt to indoctrinate the children with such topics as the seventh-day Sabbath or the Spirit of Prophecy. They do have Bible stories and they read other stories that teach Christian moral principles. They also teach the children to sing Christian hymns.

My son said that to date they have had no complaints from any of the parents, because they know this is what to expect when they leave the children there. They also have had no objections from any of the church members or church board members, since they all feel that this is a proper way to handle this particular problem.

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The day care center at Summersville was opened as an evangelistic endeavor. Our church members there are hoping that they can persuade the parents of these children to eventually enroll them in our church school, and hopefully through this means become interested in the Adventist message.

I am sure that the Lord will lead you and the others in the Mount Tabor church as you discuss this most important matter.

With my very best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Robert W. Olson, Secretary

RWO/nc