

Welcome to MOPS 2011-2012

Welcome! We are so excited for this upcoming year of MOPS! "It's being moms that brings us together- and wanting to be the very best moms we can be. MOPS is about meeting the needs of moms- urban, suburban, rural, stay-at-home, working, teen, adoptive, special-needs, single and married moms and is for every mom, from conception through kindergarten." Together we address issues and needs of women and our families covering a wide range of topics.

We meet the 2nd Thursday of every month, from 9:30-11:30am (September-June)

Location:

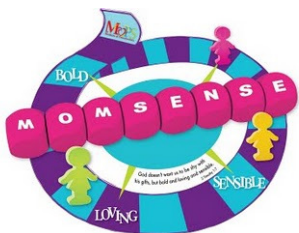
Heritage Bible Chapel, 182 Brooks Station Rd. Princeton MA 01541

When you arrive, enter into the covered entrance to the right. When you walk in, there will be a sign up table for you and a sign up table for your children. Please sign in yourself first, then your children. Once everyone is signed in you can go drop off your children in their designated rooms, and then join us in the foyer outside of the sanctuary.

Our leadership team:

Christine Pieculewicz (coordinator)
Sarah McRell (creative activities)
Kate Pape (publicity)
Anna Harvey (service)
Jennie Roberts (hospitality)
Kathryn Dennett (hospitality)
Kristine Benjamin (hospitality)
Michelle Dupuis (MOPPETS)
Susan Hamilton (MOPPETS)
Tricia Nicols (Mentor Mom)

Theme:



Our theme for the 2011-2012 year is **MomSense- a Common sense guide to confident mothering-** a book (and supplemental DVD segments) by Jean Blackmer. MomSense helps moms embrace their mothering instincts and develop their own unique parenting style. Because of a generous donation that was made to our group in honor of Dick Brooks, a book will be provided for you at your first meeting so you may read along with the topics and themes.

Meeting Structure:

1. Arrive: around 9:25-9:30 and sign in and drop off children (little ones are welcome to join us moms if you are nursing, they are apprehensive, or are just in need of mommy-love that day).
2. Coffee/food table: 3-4 moms are asked to bring food for each meeting for everyone to share. There will be coffee/tea/water available as well. MOPS leaders arrive early to set up everything, but if other moms want to help out it is greatly appreciated.
3. At 9:40, we start the meeting with a greeting, announcements, and an icebreaker. We want to use our time wisely, so please arrive with time to check in your children and get them settled before announcements start so you don't miss anything. In light of this year's game type theme, we will be playing some type of game as an icebreaker.
4. Topic of the day/guest speaker, followed by discussion.
5. End in creative activity most meetings.

Dates & Topics:

Sep 8 – Welcome back to MOPS! <Mad Gab> Introduction to “MomSense” Theme. Recipe exchange! Please bring 5 copies of your favorite recipe to share.

Oct 13- <Chutes & Ladders> Child safety, cori checks, ID tags

Nov 10- <Hi Ho Cherry O> Feeding your family

Dec 8- <Guess Who?> Christmas Guest Speaker

Jan 12- <Old Maid> Spa Day

Feb 9- <Sequence> Love languages. How do you tell your family you love them, and how do they feel loved?

Mar 8- <Hide & Seek> Easter Guest Speaker

April 12- <Simon Says> Consistency: a MomSense quality

May 10- <Scramble> Raising readers, Usborne Book sale

June 14- < Monopoly> Financially handling your house, How to coupon successfully

Fees:

We aim to keep our fees as low as possible so that every mom can enjoy being a part of MOPS. We accomplish this by donations from the church and fundraisers. The MOPS group would not function and be the positive influence in our lives as it is if it were not for the dedication and service of our MOPPETS (childcare) workers. We are grateful for their willingness to sacrifice their time for us. The small fee we will be collecting this year goes towards the childcare expense so that we can continue to grow as a group, and as individuals. If you experience a hardship and are unable to pay the full fee, please consult Christine Pieculewicz.

- **MOPS International (yearly) membership is \$23.95.** Membership includes a welcome package, weekly MOPS emails, and a subscription to MomSense Magazine (monthly). New moms can join at any time throughout the year. We will have computers available at the meetings so you can register online with a credit card.
- **Our group fee for the year will be \$20 per mom.** This money will go towards childcare, supply/administration costs, craft supplies, and other miscellaneous fees. Checks can be made out to Heritage Bible Chapel, with MOPS in the memo, and given to a MOPS leader.

Forms:

There will be registration forms for moms and their children that will need to be filled out at our first meeting, or your first time attending. Please return these forms to a MOPS leader.

New Email System:

We have transitioned to a new email system using "Google Groups" in an effort to protect our member's privacy. Each member is able to post to the < hbcmps@googlegroups.com > and an email will be sent out to the entire MOPS group. To subscribe to this email list please send a blank email to < hbcmps+subscribe@googlegroups.com > To remove yourself from the MOPS email list, please contact Michelle Dupuis at michelleld@charter.net

Upcoming Events:

- We will be doing seasonal postcards again this year, with reminders of upcoming events for 3 months at a time. These will be available at the meetings, but if you are unable to come to the meeting and would like a postcard, contact Christine Pieculewicz and one will be mailed to you.
- Service Projects: We will be doing a few service projects throughout the year, and the first one will be doing in October. We will be sending shoeboxes filled with little gifts for children around the world. More information will be shared at the September MOPS meeting, and an email will follow. We will also be doing little gift baskets for new moms throughout the year.
- Mom's Night Out- We will be doing a few of these throughout the year. These will either be dinners out, potluck, game night, dessert/coffee out, etc. More info to come!

Reminders about Childcare:

Please remember that MOPS would not function without our childcare workers, and we try our best to accommodate the moms, children, and helpers needs.

- To make the best use of our time together, we will start the meeting promptly at 9:40-9:45am, even if moms are running late (it's okay if you are running late, we all do, but we aim to start each meeting on time each month).
- We need to pick up our children at 11:30, to allow moms and workers to leave on time to other obligations.
- Please label all sippy cups, pacifiers, or anything else you might bring with your child. If your child needs a pacifier, please bring a clip for it so it doesn't get lost or confused with another.

Reminder about Food:

We are very grateful to Heritage Bible Chapel for allowing us to meet in their main foyer. Out of respect for the church, we ask that no children eat in the foyer during our meeting. We would like to keep the spills and mess to a minimum. We understand that accidents happen, and if you happen to have a spill on the carpet, please inform one of the steering committee members so we can promptly get it taken care of.

Thank you in advance! By going through all of this now, it will help us work effectively as a group later. We look forward to the new year with you

God Bless!

Heritage Bible Chapel MOPS Steering Team- Christine, Kate, Sarah, Jennie, Kathryn, Anna, Michelle, Kristine, Susan and Tricia

For any questions, comments, concerns or information, please contact:

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Please visit our website! <http://princetonmops.vpweb.com/>