



# Special Friends

## Special Friends in the Class

“Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.” 1 John 3:18

**Teachers and Classrooms:** \_\_\_\_\_ is key. Teachers and helpers should be consistent.

1. Each child should \_\_\_\_\_ a class of their peers and be allowed to participate as much as possible.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ in the classroom or Sunday School should be similar each week.
3. The classroom itself should not be overly stimulating, i.e., wall decorations and paint colors.

## Teaching Time:

A \_\_\_\_\_ should not be more than 20 mins long.

**Visual aids are \_\_\_\_\_.** Incorporate Bible lesson pictures, verse visuals, object lessons, and personal visual folders. Each of these will all aid in the learning and attention of the child.

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things, there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23*

## Patience:

- a. Be \_\_\_\_\_ with each child as new situations, overly visually stimulating areas, experiences, and people can be a trigger.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ may become obvious such as biting, getting angry, refusing to move, noises, or facial movements.

**“Stimming”** refers to self-stimulating behavior, which are repetitive physical or verbal tics common in individuals with autism. To some degree, we all exhibit stimming behaviors.

- a. If a child is stimming, speak \_\_\_\_\_ and redirect the child to their folder or something that the parent or guardian reported as a favorite object, color, or activity.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ are helpful in overstimulated situations.
- c. Fidget toys - give the child an object. Something as simple as a rubber pencil tube or other fidget toys, an item in each hand will help them feel \_\_\_\_\_.

**Redirection:** There are several ways to \_\_\_\_\_ the child who is struggling in the new environment or having a meltdown. A meltdown is an intense response to overwhelming circumstances.

1. music, worship
2. baby toys
3. video on the device (cell phone or iPad) of the helper (with caution)
4. folder (1st / Then)
5. fidget toy
6. favorite item or color
7. Calming Room

**Visual Schedule Folders:** Using a plastic pocket folder.

- a. The Visual \_\_\_\_\_ will give them the ability to communicate with the teacher or helper.
- b. Using the front of the folder to apply Velcro strips.
- c. Print and laminate symbols (PECS) to apply to Velcro.
- d. Use PECS cards to \_\_\_\_\_ visually the schedule for the class time. (sit, read, Snacks, Bible lesson, Song, game, bathroom, coloring, craft, memory verse, go home as the last picture)
- e. On the back of the folder use the (1st / then) visual method. Using two columns, one labeled “1st” and the other “then” you will place the schedule. Under the 1st column a picture of the Bible lesson and under the “then” column it will have a snack. Example: Show the child the visual and say, “First we listen to the Bible lesson then we have a snack.”
- f. Use the 1st / then to \_\_\_\_\_ in a meltdown.

- g. Keep any necessary paperwork as well as fidgets and coloring pages in the folder.

## Calming Room

1. **Create a designated room for your special friends.**
  - a. Incorporate sensory items
  - b. Bean bags
  - c. Blacklight lighting
  - d. Wall sensory toys
  - e. Glow-in-the-dark décor
  - f. Special ceiling lights
  - g. Aquarium
  - h. Books
  - i. Music
  - j. Crafts
  - k. Bible story (video or visualized)
2. Use this room with your low-functioning kids or your kids that may need a place to calm themselves.
3. Train a team of two or three to run this room on a \_\_\_\_\_ basis.  
Consistency is key!

## Volunteers:

How can we as ministers of the gospel be \_\_\_\_\_ to the entire church body and every family the Lord brings to our ministry?

- a. Pray that the Lord will \_\_\_\_\_ the ones called and gifted as teachers and helpers to serve these little ones whom the Lord has created and given to your ministry.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ and train those called. A “Buddy System” was developed to minister one-on-one with children who need extra help.
- c. May we teach with \_\_\_\_\_ because of the love of Christ and His wonderful grace toward us, given freely.

“She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.”

Proverbs 31:26

## **ONLINE Presence and Early Registration:**

### **Optional Question to ask on your Church Website:**

I have a child with special needs. How does Calvary Kids Ministry ensure that they will feel loved and still learn about Jesus during service?

We want you to know that your child is MORE THAN WELCOME at Calvary Kids! In fact, we have been praying for your child! My Church Kids provides a “Buddy System” for our friends who need more one-on-one attention while still participating in all of the fun activities. Please reach out to [calvarykids@church.com](mailto:calvarykids@church.com) so we can ensure your child has the best possible experience learning about Jesus!

1. Be sure that this email is checked regularly and that parents receive a quick response.
2. Allow for a phone conversation or meet and greet prior to service with parent and child.
3. Consider a welcome video that walks any family, looking to attend, through the check-in process and schedule.

*“Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray.”*

*Matthew 19:13*

Edify KidMin is a ministry serving the local church through Children’s Ministry training, workshops, and encouragement! To learn more visit us at [edifykidmin.com](http://edifykidmin.com)