

Special Needs Assistance – Parent/Child Guidelines:

To receive assistance:

- Parents agree to complete a “Questionnaire for Families and Children with Special Needs”
- Applications may be found online, at Kids’ Check-in or at Information Central
- Once a completed application has been received, a volunteer with special needs assistance will be in contact with you to establish the type of assistance (ie, room assistant or side-by-side) available to best meet your child’s needs
 - Room Assistants – oversee multiple kids in a room that could benefit from basic help with attention, redirection, sensory or social needs.
 - Side-by-side Volunteers – provide one-on-one support for your child
- Assistance is provided for special needs children from birth-grade 5 (up to age 12)
- If a side-by-side volunteer is needed but not immediately available, for a safe, positive experience, we ask that the child not attend kids’ programming until a match is found
- Families may provide their own personal care assistant (PCA) to work with their child. We require a background check (which is required for all adult kids’ ministries volunteers) and for the PCA to work within the established guidelines of kids’ programming and special needs assistance.
- Behavior of your child be such that it can be accommodated and managed in the environment we have to offer within the inclusion model of special needs assistance
- In some cases, medical or behavioral needs may be beyond the capability of our volunteer staff. In these instances, we may determine that we are not able to offer assistance and reserve the right to decline volunteer services in these circumstances

To begin:

- We request that a parent or caregiver remain with the child, on the first day, for at least the first 10-minutes. This will help to provide important information to the volunteer and provide a smoother transition for the child.
- We highly encourage parents bring their child to the same church service/ministry program each week. This allows for consistency for the volunteers and for the children
- Parent establishes with the Room Assistant or Side-by-Side Volunteer how/if they desire to be communicated with regarding their child’s experiences for the hour

Other Notes:

- If diapering is required beyond age 5, or in special circumstances, parents will be notified and must agree to handle this for their child
- If your child has rescue medication, we need the parent or caregiver to sign a medical release