



*The Special Needs Assistance team is passionate about coming alongside kids, birth-grade 5, with various special needs, so that they may participate to their fullest potential within kids' services. You will develop a team of volunteers to be a consistent presence and spiritual influence in the lives of kids.*

**Side-by-side volunteers** create an inviting environment for kids and families by providing quality care, laying foundations of trust, and ensuring safety. Here's how we do it:

## **BEING PREPARED**

- Read communication updates from your leader prior to your serving time to stay informed.
- Check in with your team lead at scheduled time to participate in huddle, receive instructions, connect with your team, and prepare to serve.
- Be committed to your serving time and locate a sub if you are unable to serve. With the impact of your role in mind, communicate any changes with your team lead and the family you work with.

## **ENSURING EACH KID-O FEELS CARED FOR, COMFORTABLE, AND SAFE**

- Enthusiastically welcome your kid and family, answer any questions they have, help them find something they enjoy doing, and play with them.
- Manage the behavior of your kid, so they aren't in danger of hurting themselves or others. Provide reminders for appropriate behavior, separate kids if necessary, and seek your team lead's assistance to page parents if behavior becomes unmanageable.
- Create connections with kids and families as well as between other kids.
- Log relevant information for helping your child adapt.

## **SUPPORT KIDS' MINISTRY ENVIRONMENTS BY OWNING THE ROOM ATMOSPHERE**

- Assist Pastors of Kids' Ministries to maintain an effective learning environment with awareness of the whole group.
- Make personal adaptations or resourcing recommendations when possible, so your child can participate in large and small groups, games, and activities.
- Be empowered to discuss with other volunteers, parents, and staff members on how to best address child behaviors during service.

## **CELEBRATING THE KID-OS WITH THEIR FAMILIES**

- Take the time to share with the grown-ups the fun things their kids say and do, the lessons they learned, and specific examples of how you enjoyed your time together.
- Cards are provided for you to write a note to kids or families after your service time.