



Frequently Asked Questions



"WHAT WILL MY CHILD DO WHILE I'M IN SERVICE?"

Our goal for your child is connection with others and inclusion. After drop-off, your child & his/her Buddy will go to class.

During class, your child's Buddy will help them connect with other children, play games, engage in worship (🎵 Dance party! 🎵), interact with the lesson materials and more!

"WHAT IF MY CHILD CAN'T TOLERATE THE CLASSROOM?"

We understand not all children can tolerate the classroom for very long -and that's okay! Whether your child is able to attend class for 30 minutes, or 10 minutes, what's important is that they feel safe and cared for. Your child's Buddy will offer to give them a break by either taking them for a walk down the hallway, or taking him/her to our Respite Room.

"HOW DO I KNOW MY CHILD IS SAFE?"

We take the safety of our kids very seriously; every one of our kids volunteers is required to pass a criminal background check before serving. Many of our Buddies are also experienced teachers and/or medical professionals that have been thoughtfully selected to be your child's Buddy

Additionally, our security Team routinely walks the hallways to monitor the safety of our classrooms & worship areas.

"WHAT IF MY CHILD ESCALATES OR BECOMES AGGRESSIVE?"

If your child becomes upset, distressed or dysregulated, we will do our best to keep them safe and content. Before contacting parents, we will offer your child his/her comfort items. Please bring your child's favorite toys, blankets, snacks, iPad/AAC device, etc. Toys and sensory activities are also available in the Respite room.

If a child becomes inconsolable, aggressive, violent, uses profanity, and/or poses a safety risk to himself/herself or others, we will ask parents to come and pick up their child. *If this happens with your child, don't give up! Let's discuss strategies for next time so we can help your child be successful!

"WHY DIDN'T MY CHILD GET A BUDDY?"

Our Buddy assignments are based on a first-come/first-serve system & volunteer availability. This is why it's important to complete & submit your child's Intake Form before Sunday :)

Know that we will do our very best for your child, but we cannot guarantee Buddies will be available for everyone, every time. Please be patient with us as we learn & grow!

*If your child is not assigned a Buddy, let's chat and make sure we have a plan in place for you next Sunday!



Frequently Asked Questions Cont.



"WHAT AGES CAN YOU ACCOMODATE?"

Currently, we are accepting children ages 3-12yrs old for our Buddy program.

* If your child is typically able to attend the general classroom, we ask that our Buddies be reserved for the children who need the most accomodations. Thank you for your understanding!

"WILL MY CHILD HAVE THE SAME BUDDY EVERY SUNDAY?"

Not every Sunday, and here's why: We believe it is vital for every volunteer to stay connected in worship, God's Word, and the Church community. Therefore, we make sure that all volunteers are able to attend service on a regular basis to avoid burn-out and to ensure they are being "fed".

We will do our best to pair your child with someone he/she will easily connect with!

"WE DIDN'T GET A BUDDY. DOES THIS MEAN MY CHILD CAN'T GO TO CLASS?"

Lets talk! Of course we want your child to attend class BUT, there are some safety issues to consider first:

- Will he/she need frequent breaks from the classroom or need to go to the Respite room?
- Is your child safe without the supervision of an adult? Example: does he/she need to be monitored for medical reasons? Does he/she often or easily escalate and become aggressive or violent? Is he/she an elopement risk?

"CAN I OR ANOTHER ADULT FAMILY MEMBER STAY WITH MY CHILD IN THE CLASSROOM OR RESPITE ROOM?"

To ensure the safety of all our kids, the only adults that are allowed to stay in the kid's classrooms & Respite room are the adults who have been assigned as teachers/helpers/Buddies and who have passed a criminal background check.

If you are unable (or not ready) to leave your child with us -we understand! You can still join us either in the auditorium, or if you're concerned your child won't tolerate the auditorium area, you're welcome to use our overflow section in the Lobby.

* We know... Our system isn't perfect, but we are doing our best! Please be patient with us; we are still learning & growing!