



Children with Special Needs in KidsWorld

The mission of KidsWorld is to make “passionate disciples of Jesus Christ who are belonging, growing, serving and reaching.” We want to see that happen in the life of every child God sends our way, and this certainly includes children with special needs.

If your family has a child with special needs that will require additional volunteer support while participating in a KidsWorld program, we want to partner together with you to help your child get the most out of KidsWorld.

By pairing your child with a 1:1 buddy, we can help to nurture, support, and care for them in the KidsWorld environment; engage them with their peers; and teach them about God’s love and grace.

What We’ll Do

- Attempt to recruit a 1:1 buddy that would be a good match for your child.
- Help facilitate ongoing conversation between your family and the 1:1 buddy.
- Provide ongoing training and development for buddies.

What You’ll Do

- Complete a brief application/questionnaire and have a conversation with KidsWorld staff to help us get to know your family and understand your child’s unique needs.
- Commit to consistent attendance at Christ Community Church.
- Agree to regular communication with your assigned buddy regarding the service you plan to attend, absences, etc.

QUESTIONS

I’m new to Christ Community Church/My child does not yet have a buddy

Once we have had an initial conversation with your family, we will make every effort to recruit a 1:1 buddy for your child. Until a buddy is assigned, your child may participate in KidsWorld **only** if a caregiver (parent/guardian or sibling 9th grade and above) is present with them. ***See below for specific guidelines.*

How are buddies assigned?

We strive to find a good match between your child and a buddy. Several factors are taken into consideration including:

- The specific needs of your child and abilities of the buddy
- When and how families have expressed interest and need for a buddy
- Consistency of attendance at Christ Community Church

How will I communicate with my child's buddy?

Once a buddy has been assigned, we'll help facilitate an initial conversation between the buddy and your family. You'll exchange contact information with one another, and you'll be responsible for maintaining an open line of communication together on subjects such as absences or changes to regular service attendance with both your child's buddy and KidsWorld.

I won't be at service on a given weekend/I can't commit to regular attendance

While we will make every effort to recruit buddies for all children who need 1:1 support, priority will be given to families who are consistently in attendance at weekend services or other KidsWorld programming. If you can't make it to a service or program, it will be your responsibility to let your child's buddy know. Two unexcused absences (i.e. absences in which buddies and/or staff were not notified) may mean your child's buddy is re-assigned to another child in need.

Note: If your child's buddy cannot attend on a given week, they will communicate this with you. On the weeks the buddy is not present, the child will not be able to participate in KidsWorld unless a caregiver (parent/guardian or sibling 9th grade and older) is present with them. ***See below for specific guidelines.*

Do you offer alternate programming for children with special needs?

At this time, KidsWorld does not offer a separate room or program for children with special needs at any of our campuses. Through our buddy system, we will make every attempt to help all kids integrate into KW programs and be successful in this environment.

Unfortunately, despite our desire and best efforts, there may be times when we are unable to facilitate a child's attendance and participation in KW.

For more information, or if you'd like to be a buddy for a child with special needs, contact Dave Gwynne at 630.485.3318 or dgwynne@ccclife.org.

**** Family Caregivers:** Family members who would like to assist their child may do so for a maximum of (2) times on an orange [Visitor Agreement](#). After (2) visits, they must fill out a [Caregiver Agreement](#) and be screened. A background check is required for anyone 18 and older. References are required for everyone. Once screening is complete, family members will be trained on classroom and visiting guidelines and will be required to wear a designated name tag and lanyard.