

EVERY CHILD, EVERY WHERE

Each child is special and wonderfully made with unique skills, preferences, interests, needs and talents that can be used to bring a higher quality of life to themselves and the people they are with. Plan to help everyone who needs to know, love and serve Christ.

- ❖ Commit to reaching every child by demonstrating the love of Christ.
- ❖ Pray for wisdom, understanding, and patience.
- ❖ Meet with the parents to discuss goals and increase mutual understanding.
- ❖ Research; there are lots of resources available!
- ❖ Be a source of encouragement as you build relationships. Ministry is two-way!

As you learn about the individual, meet them where they are and move forward. Every person has strengths and challenges. Think about inputs, processing, and outputs. Some people have issues receiving inputs, some have issues processing information, and some have issues with appropriate responses.

Consider everything including:

- ❖ Social & Interpersonal Needs
- ❖ Personal Needs
- ❖ Family Needs
- ❖ Sensory, Communication, Learning, Environmental Needs

Build relationships; get to know the young people you work with.

Don't ignore the kids, but don't smother them.

Create structure and consistency. Make your expectations clear.

Get the kids involved as much as possible. Recruit peer partners.

Remove clutter and distractions in your rooms.

Kids might have only one limitation. Don't treat everyone as "multi-"

Game Time

- Get everyone's attention, then demonstrate the game.
- Explain rules clearly; use short phrases and "first-then-then".
- Vary games to include different skill levels. Use both active and quiet games.
- Provide a quiet space if activity is overwhelming.
- Kids might be helpers, keeping score, passing out equipment, blowing the whistle.

Small Group Time

- Sit in the same place each week.
- Make eye contact.
- Allow time for processing words. Be patient.
- Adapt the section as needed. Work on short phrases.
- Understand learning styles.
- Kids need to communicate the memory verse, using their mode.
- Learn to communicate with them; a few phrases, sign language, etc.

Large Group Time

- Be clear about expectations.
- Maintain a routine.
- Allow for attention spans; use music, announcements, Q&A.
- Eliminate distractions, or provide focused space.
- Some kids need to sit up front to see or hear, or be less distracted.
- Sit leaders among the kids.