



# Kids Care: Inclusion Model

Instead of creating a separate ministry or classroom, at Eagle Brook, we adopt the "inclusion model." Our goal is to help kids with disabilities and additional needs participate in Kids services on the weekend. We will strive to welcome each child to the Kids service that corresponds to their peer age-group, helping them learn and grow in Christ. With reasonable (non-professional) volunteer support, we will partner with parents/caregivers to accommodate every kid to the best of our abilities for the one-hour service. In some cases, we may not be able to offer support and reserve the right to decline volunteer services in those rare circumstances.

| We DO Provide:  | We DON'T Provide:   |
|---|---|
| The opportunity for kids to participate and learn <i>within</i> Kids ministries, according to their unique abilities              | Separate classrooms or classes for kids with disabilities, or accommodations for kids older than grade 5 at this time |
| One hour of care and programming while a parent/guardian attends service onsite   | Respite care or drop-off care   |
| Trained, screened, secure volunteers who love kids with disabilities and additional needs   | Professionals who do therapy or behavior modification programs  |
| Side-by-side volunteers or a "para-type" room assistant for individualized attention/oversight                                    | Medical intervention or diapering/toileting for children over 4 (parents will be paged)                               |
| Some creative adaptations with curriculum, activities, and sensory/visual/physical resources to increase successful participation | Strategically separate curriculum, teaching, or environment for learning  |

Our physical space limits us from having designated rooms to accommodate individualized sensory, developmental, or behavioral needs. In order to utilize our support, we work with the child to be included within the established Kids service under the safety, security, and well-being offered by that structure.

If a child needs to calm, reduce distraction, or leave the classroom to regulate, a volunteer may take them to a secured hallway for a short time (5-10 minutes) and return when appropriate. If a child is having a hard time participating, TWO background-checked adult volunteers may utilize an empty classroom within secure spaces for 15-20 minutes. Beyond that, the parent/caregiver will need to be paged. Volunteers cannot relocate with a child outside of the secured area.

We empower our staff and Kids Care volunteers to observe the physical or behavioral needs of a child. They may then recommend to the parents/caregivers if the child needs a room assistant, a side-by-side volunteer, or have a meeting to assess how we may be able to accommodate the family best.

## Some examples of diagnoses which we may provide support for:

Cerebral Palsy, autism, developmental delay, muscular dystrophy, ADD, cancer, and Down syndrome are just a few examples.