



## Special Needs Ministry Volunteer / Buddy Guidelines

### Purpose Statement

The Special Needs ministry of First Baptist Jenks seeks to minister to children and young adults with identified special needs while parents attend Bible Fellowship, Worship, or serve within the church. It is our desire to provide a safe, loving, Christ-centered environment for individuals with special needs to learn God's Word.

### What is a Special Needs Buddy?

A person willing to be a friend and go with the special needs child/student during their time at church. The buddy will receive training and provide whatever level of assistance is deemed necessary for the child.

### Ministry Scripture:

*"The body is a unit though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. Now the body is not made up on one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" **On the contrary those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment...But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for one another. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is part of it.**" 1 Corinthians 12:12, 14-14, 21-27*

### Volunteer Guidelines

1. Must be a member of First Baptist Jenks and complete a background check if over 18 yrs of age. Only individuals who are volunteers and have completed a background check are allowed into the Special Connections Classroom. Family members wishing to attend must have communicated with the Special Needs Director.
2. Commit to training. This may be as often as once or twice a year.
3. Be consistent, dedicated, punctual, and dependable. Families and children depend upon their child's Buddy to help them have a positive church experience.
4. Maintain confidentiality. You may witness behaviors and issues that are to be kept private between the child's family and the Director. Respect the privacy of the family and do not share with those that are not involved in Special Needs Ministry.
5. Avoid giving advice. Report questions and concerns to Director. A buddy's role is to love, nurture, protect, and guide. Parents will inform us of any special needs or instructions.
6. Be understanding, compassionate, patient, and flexible. Things WILL happen that will be outside the typical child's behavior. See the child through God's eyes as part of the body of Christ.
7. Buddies may meet their child in the child's assigned classroom or the upstairs Adventure Land office.

Special Needs Director Contact Information:

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