

Kidventure Special Needs Policy

Purpose

Kidventure is committed to creating a welcoming, safe, and nurturing environment where all children can learn about God and experience community. This Special Needs Policy exists to ensure that children with special needs are cared for in a way that is safe, supportive, and appropriate for both the child and our ministry volunteers.

Age Range

This policy applies to children **from birth through 5th grade or up to 12 years of age**, whichever comes first.

Inclusion Philosophy

We joyfully welcome children with special needs and desire to integrate them into our regular classroom environments whenever possible. Our goal is inclusion—not isolation—while maintaining a safe and effective learning environment for all children.

Eligibility for Participation

Children with special needs may participate in Kids Ministry classes provided that:

- The child **can be integrated into a regular classroom setting**
- The child **does not require one-on-one care** from a volunteer
- The child **does not pose a safety risk** to themselves, other children, or volunteers
- The child can participate with **reasonable accommodations** that our ministry is able to provide

If these criteria cannot be met, Kidventure leadership will work with the family to explore alternative options or next steps.

Individual Assessment

Each child's situation is **considered on an individual basis**. We recognize that special needs vary widely and may change over time. Acceptance into the Kidventure is not guaranteed and may be adjusted as needs evolve.

Parent Shadowing Requirement

Before a child with special needs may be dropped off for future Kidventure classes:

- A **parent or legal guardian must shadow their child for one full Sunday**
- This shadowing period allows ministry leaders and volunteers to:
 - Observe the child's needs, behavior, and classroom participation
 - Identify necessary accommodations
 - Determine whether the classroom environment is appropriate for the child
- After the shadowing Sunday, Kidventure leadership will communicate next steps with the family

Ongoing Participation

If a child is approved for continued participation:

- The child may attend Kidventure classes without a parent present
- Parents may be asked to provide:
 - Written information about the child's needs
 - Strategies that help the child succeed
 - Updates if the child's needs or behaviors change

The church reserves the right to request additional shadowing or reevaluation if concerns arise.

Safety and Volunteer Support

For the safety of all involved:

- Volunteers are not permitted to provide medical care, administer medication, or provide one-on-one supervision
- Volunteers will receive basic guidance but are not trained special education professionals
- If a child's needs exceed what volunteers can reasonably manage, parents may be asked to remain with their child

Partnership with Parents

We believe the best outcomes happen when the church and families work together. Parents are expected to:

- Communicate openly and honestly about their child's needs
- Respect the limitations of the Kidventure Ministry
- Partner with leadership in making decisions that are best for the child and the ministry as a whole

Policy Review and Changes

This policy may be reviewed and updated as needed. Kidventure leadership reserves the right to make final decisions regarding participation to ensure a safe, effective, and Christ-centered environment.