

Real Life Christian Church

Buddy System

At RLCC we use a buddy system in our Special Needs ministry. A designated buddy provides a one on one assistant to accompany and assist your child in the ministry setting. Our goal is to enable parents with a special needs child to attend worship by providing a place where they know their child is being loved and cared for. Our mission is to ensure that our children with special needs have a great experience at RLCC in a caring and supportive environment. If you have a child with special needs and would like your child to use our buddy system, please fill out the application.

Initial Procedures for an Assigned Buddy

- Upon arrival at church, go to the Kids Check In counter to pick up your I.D. sticker and the activity bag for your designated child. The activity bag provides a variety of toys/books that may be used during your interaction with your child.
- After checking in, proceed to your child's assigned classroom to await his/her arrival. If your child does not show up, please return the activity bag to the Check In counter.

Roles and Responsibilities of an Assigned Buddy

Your role as a Buddy is to assist and support your child during worship time in his/her assigned classroom. Your responsibilities include:

- Encourage your child to participate in the lesson and activities that are being presented by the teacher. Assist your child in staying focused and on-task, as necessary. Please note that you are not responsible for any of the other children in the classroom.
- Provide assistance with crafts or projects, such as cutting, pasting, or coloring, as needed.
- Monitor your child's interactions with others in the classroom to ensure that he/she is demonstrating acceptable behaviors. In the event that any unacceptable behaviors are displayed, verbally redirect and intervene, as needed.
- If your child becomes distracted and unable to remain focused during the lesson, you may provide him/her with any of the items in the designated activity bag. Please do not allow other children to play with these items as they have been specifically chosen for your child.
- If your child becomes frustrated or disruptive, you may need to remove him/her from the classroom. You may step out into the hallway with your child and calmly redirect or soothe him/her. If your child does not calm down, you may need to have the parent contacted for assistance.

Frequency and Time frame for an Assigned Buddy

- The frequency of your assignment as a Buddy is based on need and is determined by the Director of the Kids Ministry, Tina Goodwin.
- The time frame for your assignment as a Buddy is from 9:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. You are encouraged to arrive prior to the start of the worship service to

allow you adequate time to check in and to greet your assigned child.(Please note that these times will change based on worship service times.)