CROSS POINT CHURCH

VISION:
- To be a community of believers that is radically devoted to Christ, irrevocably committed to one another, and relentlessly dedicated to reaching those outside God’s family with the Gospel of Christ.
- To be a community where everyone’s welcome, because nobody’s perfect, and anything’s possible.
- A community where it’s OK to not be OK.

VALUES:
- Intimacy with God
- Authentic Relationships
- Life Transformation
- God’s Unique Design of People
- Sacrificial Living
- Community Impact

IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- About 1 in 5 U.S. residents have a disability (Fenton Lee, 2016).
- There is currently no established kid’s special needs ministry or supports in place for children with special needs and their families.
- There is currently no established kid’s special needs ministry or supports in place for children with special needs.
- The Nashville campus currently has an established sensory room, but this is an area that has been identified by my expert mentor to need improvements.
- Religious beliefs and supportive faith communities are important sources of support for families raising a child with special needs (Pannone, 2017).

“...”

GOALS

- Meet the needs of families of children with disabilities and provide supports for them in an inclusive environment to allow their children to fully participate with their peers.
- Conduct focus group with kids volunteers who work with this population and families of children with special needs to gain insight and collect feedback and ideas for the ministry.
- Do research on best practices by reading books, articles, and visiting large churches with established buddy programs.
- Develop individualized family and child intake form and policies and procedures of the buddy program for families and volunteers.
- Develop a final binder on all aspects of the buddy program for sustainability.

OUTCOMES

WHAT IS THE BUDDY PROGRAM?
Individualized 1-on-1 support for a child with a trained volunteer buddy to provide optimal assistance for their needs while learning about God’s love for them in a safe and inclusive environment.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOLLOWING:
- Cross Point Kids Ministry Buddy Program
- Child and Family Profile Intake Form
- Policy & Procedure Form for Parents
- Short Profile Intake Form
- Parent Informational Brochure
- Volunteer Buddy Policy & Procedure Form
- Lunch and Learn Training Presentation
- Cross Point Kids Nashville Buddy Program
- Volunteer Manual
- Visual Schedule for Preschool Classrooms

SENSORY ROOM

Before

The sensory room is primarily used as a transition room (at the beginning or end of service) and as a room for a child and their buddy to take a sensory break during the service if they get overwhelmed as our focus is on inclusion.

After

“This program truly has been an answer to our prayers by giving us the best of all worlds, not only for us as a couple, but as an entire family.” - Crystal

REFERENCES


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Cross Point Church (Nashville, TN)
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- CGI Sanders, Christ Presbyterian Church (Nashville, TN)
- Kristin Davis, Fellowship Bible Church – Brentwood Campus (Nashville, TN)
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- Jennifer Kociszewski, River’s Crossing (Mason, OH)