WKids Buddies: Developing a Special Needs Ministry

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Mission & Vision

Mission:
To love God, Connect with People, and Impact the world.

Vision:
To fulfill the Great Commission by winning and growing people for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Identified Needs of Agency

I. An inclusive special needs ministry for ages 4 – 11 years old
II. Funding, space, and items for sensory room
III. Volunteers that will be a “buddy” to a child with disability
IV. Education and training to buddies, volunteers, and Sunday School teachers on disability

Goals of Experiential Component

I. Demonstrate innovation and professional reasoning by designing an inclusive, sustainable special needs ministry for Wallace Memorial Baptist Church
II. Refine advocacy skills by analyzing the gaps in current programming and propose strategies to enhance inclusion and occupational engagement of children with disabilities
III. Enhance program development skills by generating foundational documents for a special needs ministry as evidenced by creation of mission, vision, child intake forms, volunteer applications, and policy and procedure manual
IV. Create educational training program regarding inclusion of children with disabilities
V. Recruit and train “buddies” or volunteers that provide one-on-one assistance, when needed, to facilitate inclusion of child with disability
VI. Construct environmental supports that enhance participation such as sensory corner, visual schedule, or token boards

Outcomes

I. Developed ministry name, mission statement, vision statement, and policies and procedures manual
II. Created child intake forms and volunteer applications
III. Recruited 10 volunteers, created educational PowerPoint on WKids Buddies and disability etiquette, and provided hands-on training to volunteers with child
IV. Applied for Christian Fund for the Disabled by Joni and Friends and received $1500 to go towards sensory room and to maintain WKids Buddies
V. Created environmental supports including sensory backpacks, token boards, visual schedules as well as designed sensory room

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