

DAY 1 HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

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HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every day, but kids with special needs tend to get overlooked, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this day in order to keep your kids with special needs more engaged.

MUSIC | Worship in Wonder

For every worship session, use simple, repetitive actions. If kids can't do the actions, provide space for them to jump or move the way they need to move (be prepared for hands and arms to flap—this is often a form of stemming). Have noise-canceling headphones available for friends that could experience over-stimulation. Have buddies to dance with kids in wheelchairs.

ACTIVITY | Straw-ry Rockets

Many friends with special needs will need help cutting and writing. Helpers can either put their own hands over the child's hands to guide them or take the child's hands over their hands as they cut and write. For those who cannot do either, have a few rockets pre-made. You might also consider getting straws of different lengths and diameters to make it easier to push the air out.

BIBLE STORY | Created and Saved by God

Utilize story-sequencing pages ([like these](#)) to help kids focus and have an easier outline to follow. Have the initial question, two to three key points, and Big Idea pre-printed. They can be glued, taped, or adhered to poster board or foam core with [Velcro dots](#). Try out this hack for every Bible story and Discussion time!

ACTIVITY | Moving Stories

Many friends with special needs learn better from visual cues. Either have slides, posters, or cards

with the story on it so they can see as well as hear the scenario. They may need help actually acting. Be sure to have noise-canceling headphones available.

OBJECT LESSON | Created for Good Works

Have kids stand in the front and hold the items. If they need their own area during the object lesson, set up a playhouse in the corner so they can actually put everyday items in different spaces of the house.

MEMORY VERSE | STEM-ory Stack

Have the memory verse pre-printed on parts of robots and have the kids glue the robot onto paper or stick magnet robots to cookie sheets.