



SESSION 2

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

MISSION:
DEEP SEA

BY KIMBERLY DORPENYO

HOW TO HACK THIS SESSION FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

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

ACTIVITY | Lunch Launch

Provide a buddy that friends throw with and provide a large goal for them to aim for. Consider turning it into a mini relay race where the partners can pass the items back and forth with each step they take toward the goal.

ACTIVITY | Gifts I Have

Create visual gifts on paper plates then glue them on popsicle sticks. Hold up the visual that matches the item being read. Pre-print matching stickers that kids can put on their shirts or hang posters around the room (or on traffic cones) that kids can go to in order to find a partner. This game creates a lot of noise with all the talking, so have headphones available.

ACTIVITY | Lunch is Served Craft

Provide a buddy and have some pre-made for friends who can't make one. They can at least color the pre-made baskets.

THE BIG IDEA | My faith grows deeper when I use my gifts.

Pre-write the Big Idea on a large piece of butcher paper or poster board so friends can match the puzzle pieces to the bottom line. Provide a bin of kinetic sand for them to play in AFTER they do the verse. If they cannot do the verse, just lead them to the sand.

ACTIVITY | I Draw, You Draw

Distribute a picture of the same item for everyone. Provide pre-printed pictures of possible alternative uses and have the students glue them to paper.

REFLECTION | Gifts of Gold

Provide a separate treasure chest with stickers or little slips of paper with a some gifts written out or drawn already for friends to put on their plates.

MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 3:18

Pre-place a set of submarines on a poster board. Use velcro dots so students can velcro their matching submarine to the board. They may like pulling them off the board and putting them back on - the sound and feel of the velcro is often enjoyable for friends with special needs.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Kim serves as the Children's Minister at Wentzville Christian Church, where she has been creating a VIP program for friends with special abilities. They now have one-on-ones for kids, a sensory room, and she is looking at adding sensory-friendly services at least once a month.

She has been in ministry in some capacity for almost 20 years, and her experience involves community development, city-wide networking, empowering women to lead safe groups for teenage girls, and pioneering multiple facets of ministry throughout Africa.

Her daughter, Makaela, is 9 years old and the light of her life. Together they thrive on knowing God and making God known. They are constantly serving in their church and community, believing the church has no walls but lives in the heart of God's people. Their newest adventure, is become a foster family for a family of 3 siblings!

She loves to sing, travel, and drink coffee...lots of coffee.

ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Elle Campbell, Brooklyn Lindsey, Amber Stephens, Linda Moon.

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