



# SESSION 3

## 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 | Beach Ball Bounce**

Provide a separate ball in a different area of the room and do the same activity one-on-one OR have a kiddie pool filled with balls in the back of the room or the hallway. Let your friends get in the bin of balls and take out a pre-printed picture of the answers to the questions. Have the one-on-one read the back of the pictures to them.

#### **ACTIVITY | Octopus Tag**

Provide a buddy for this game. If friends cannot play this game or do not want to play this game, provide a separate area where they can move like different animals in the sea, such as a shark (place fin on head and go from one line to the other); crab (walk sideways or crawl from one line to the other); fish (pucker lips and flap arms); dolphin (jump); ocean diver (swim around in designated space).

#### **ACTIVITY | Sunken Treasure**

Provide a big crayon (easier for special hands to hold) and let them circle the answers on their map while sitting with the group. Have them share their map with the group.

#### **THE BIG IDEA | My faith grows deeper when I spend time with God.**

Provide a separate kiddie pool with the same supplies, just take away the racing aspect so they can take their time.

**REFLECTION | Water Beads**

Have a separate container with water beads in it that our friends can touch and squeeze. They can also be in a ziplock back that is duct taped shut for them to squish around.

**MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 3:18**

Put one word of the memory verse on poster board bubble shapes. Put bubble shapes on the floor in order and have kids jump from one bubble to the next saying the word.

**ACTIVITY | Deep Sea Coral Painting Craft**

Provide sponges to paint with so they sponge coral instead of blowing through straws.



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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