



VBS for Knights with Special Needs

Director Tips and Checklist

All Knights need to experience the love of Jesus through caring adults. God created each of us with a variety of abilities that leaders need to take into consideration when planning VBS.

Besides more obvious physical and communication challenges, you may have Knights who need extra structure, require adaptations in their physical environment, or just have a difficult time relating to others. A few simple steps and modifications can make all the difference in helping Knights with disabilities to feel included, experience God's love, and grow in their discipleship.

A Checklist for Directors

❑ Inform families that you welcome Knights with special needs and disabilities. Families often feel that churches are not comfortable with or prepared for their child's challenges.

❑ Meet with the parents or caregivers of each Knight with special needs. They can provide valuable insights and suggestions concerning the specific needs for their child. Ask about:

- the family's experiences in church
- the child's interests and favorite activities
- the child's daily routine, allergies, medications, and any physical accommodations or special equipment requirements
- how the child best relates to others
- preferred coping/discipline strategies

❑ Contact a special education teacher to help you understand a particular disability and for additional suggestions.

❑ Communicate expectations to Station Leaders on supporting Knights with special needs.

❑ Arrange for a Safe Sanctuaries-appropriate "buddy" to help with activities or to provide gentle reminders on behavior. Be sure to equip this buddy with a copy of the Buddy Guide in advance (found in the Knights of North Castle VBS Special Needs Classroom Leader guide, available at CokesburyVBS.com)!

❑ Be alert for Knights whose parents have not informed you about their child's needs. Have a volunteer ready to step in and help the child or teacher as needed.

❑ Provide a copy of the handout on page 71 for each of your team members to prepare them for including Knights with special needs!