



Recommendations for Special Needs VBS Students for Directors, Teachers, Parents, and Guardians

All are welcome! God created each of us with a variety of abilities that leaders need to take into consideration when planning VBS.



VBS and administrative leaders will be responsible for:

- Planning VBS
- Ordering curriculum and resources for special needs students
- Making sure the toolkit is in the designated area
- Communicating with parents regarding their child's particular needs
- Educating all partners about children's individual needs
- Ensuring safety for participants



Meet with the pastor(s) in your church to discuss special needs ministry

- Dialogue with pastor(s) in your church to discuss how special needs services are presently being addressed and/or can be addressed in the future
- Discuss your vision for VBS and the guidelines
- Be prepared to let the pastor(s) know the assistance you will need from them



Create a special needs team

- Recruit a VBS team (*parents, special education professionals, peer-partners, etc.*)
- Create roles and clarify expectations for all volunteers
- Schedule time prior to VBS for building relationships between the volunteers and the special needs participant(s) and the family
- Create a culture of acceptance



Set aside a place/room for special needs ministry

- Recruit volunteers to create a peace room of deescalation with visuals for children who may get overwhelmed (*Students with special needs should be instructed to go directly to their classroom, rather than gather in larger groups prior to class in order to reduce the feeling of being overwhelmed in crowds*)
- Create a needs inventory for each special needs student
- Establish a resource area to house all special needs materials and supplies, including a first aid kit
- Provide a toolkit for special needs team members to use with their assigned child



Special needs sensory room ideas:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| • Suspended Equipment | • Tunnel | • Feelings Chart |
| • Balance Tools | • Cube Chair | • Calm Down Area |
| • Tactile Media | • Timer | • Ropes |
| • Trampoline | • Visual Schedule | • Fidgets |
| • Crash Mat | • Bean Bag Chair | • Calming Light Projectors |
| • Sensory/Therapy Balls | • Pillows | • Ball Pit |

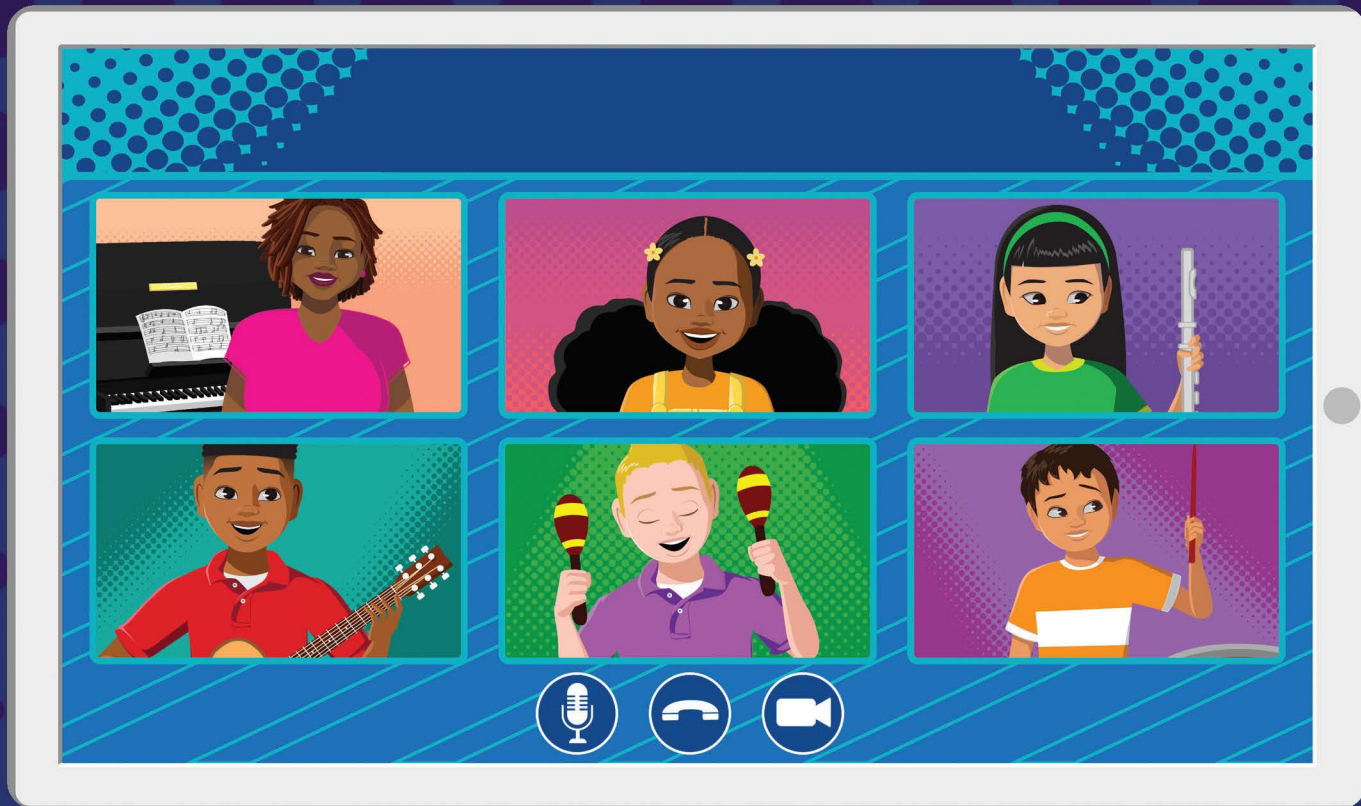
NOTE: These are all suggestions. Parents, guardians, directors, and instructors should seek and follow instructions from medical and behavioral professionals. Visit www.rhboyd.com/vbs for additional VBS resources, activities, and recommendations.

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Visit www.rhboyd.com/vbs
for additional VBS recommendations,
activities, and digital resources.