



Welcome to Discovery Buddies! Discovery Buddies exists to share the love of Christ by assisting individuals needing special accommodations and their families to become full participants and contributors in the body of Christ. We are grateful to partner with you to facilitate an incredible experience for your entire family.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If you have any questions that aren't answered here, please feel free to contact Cat Gaffney at cat@discoverychurchhickory.com

How will my child be integrated into their class?

Discovery Buddies aims to integrate children into general classrooms using open rooms and hallways for sensory breaks. Each Wednesday, the Buddies Leader will place your child in the level of integration that will set them up for the greatest level of success.

Where should I drop off and pick up my child?

Children will always start and finish in their age-appropriate classroom. When you check your child in, you will receive a barcode sticker that matches your child's sticker. You must show that sticker in order to pick your child up.

My child wears diapers, will they be changed?

Children age three and under will have their diaper changed during the service. Children age four and over that wear diapers will only be changed if the diaper is soiled.

Who is caring for my child?

The volunteers in Discovery Buddies love children deeply and have been trained for their roles by Discovery Church, but they are not professionals. These people offer their time freely and care for each child to the best of their abilities as members of the S.T.A.R. Team.

What if my child gets sick or hurt while in Discovery Buddies Ministry?

Safety is one of our primary focuses in Discovery Buddies, but we know sometimes sickness and accidents happen. If your child appears to be sick, bleeding, or hurting him/herself, a leader will text you immediately. Discovery Buddies will not perform medical procedures on children or give medication to children. In an emergency, an Epi Pen will be administered if the parents have provided one.

What if my child is having behavioral problems?

If a child starts behaving inappropriately, Discovery Buddies will set up a meeting with you to discuss the behavior and develop a plan to encourage positive change.

Discovery may also text you out of service if necessary.

How will I know I am being paged?

As part of Discovery Kids and Discovery Buddies, when you register your child, your number will be saved into our system. If we need you for any reason, you will receive a text. Please keep your phone accessible during service.

Will my child ever be alone with an adult?

We stand with you in prioritizing safety and accountability. Discovery Kids and Discovery Buddies will always have at least two people in the classroom.

What if my child no longer needs Buddy services?

If your child becomes independent in his or her classroom and no longer needs Buddy services, a Discovery Buddies leader, will set up a meeting to discuss next steps for your child.

NEXT STEPS

Set up an appointment with a Discovery Buddies leader, by emailing cat@discoverychurchhickory.com or calling 828-855-2200.

Here is what you can expect at your appointment:

- We will evaluate the level of support your child needs and create a plan for success.
- You will receive a tour of our facility
- You will complete paperwork to prepare for your child's time in Discovery Buddies

We look forward to meeting your family!

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU:

We promise every time your child enters Discovery Buddies, we will love and care for them well. Discovery Buddies wants both you and your entire family to have an incredible Sunday experience, and we are excited to partner with you to help make that happen.

In order to do that, we ask you to partner with us by agreeing that:

- If I am being texted, I will answer in a timely manner.
- If my child is medically fragile or has a history of seizures, I will meet with the Discovery Buddies leader, to develop a Medical Protocol to be implemented while child is in Discovery Kids.
- My child has/has not (*circle one*) shown aggression toward adults and/or other children as related to their diagnosis.
 - If yes, what prompts this aggression? _____

 - What does this aggression look like? _____

- I will not bring my child if they are contagious, have had a fever of 100 degrees or higher, or have vomited or had diarrhea in the 24 hours prior to the service.

_____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

Signature of parent/legal guardian