



A Ministry of Lima Community Church of the Nazarene
2945 N Cole Street Lima, OH 45801
419-223-9646

Special Friends Ministry... **Guidelines for Parents/Caregivers/Legal Guardians**

Name of Child _____
Address _____

Welcome to the Special Friends Ministry at Lima Community Church of the Nazarene. Completing the registration form for your child and this Parent Guideline form is the first step to connecting with the Special Friends Ministry. We are so excited that you are joining us and we look forward to serving you. The buddies that will be assigned to your child are volunteers and although we cannot guarantee that there will always be a buddy available at any given time, we will actively do our best to have one for you.

Joining the Special Friends Ministry, means that you, as a parent/caregiver will commit to regularly communicate with the ministry and follow the ministry's guidelines so we can serve you in the best possible manner.

The purpose of the Special Friends Ministry is to help those individuals and families affected by special needs by giving them the opportunity to fully engage in the life of the church. This will be done through inclusive and specialized environments. We want to give families and friends the freedom to attend worship services, knowing their loved ones are being included in a safe, Christ-centered experience.

1. How often do you plan to bring your child?

I plan to bring my son/daughter to the services indicated below when an assigned buddy is available:

Sundays at 10:45AM (buddies will be ready to receive children at 10:30AM)

____ Weekly ____ Every Other Week

(Currently, we are only accepting children during the 10:45AM service until more buddies become available.)

2. I ___do ___do not agree to be my child's buddy if a buddy is not available that day. (If you agree to be your child's buddy, we do ask that you complete our NVO (New Volunteer Orientation) class. All adults who are in any part of our Family Ministry are asked to complete this class which includes a background check paid for by the church.)
3. Communicate directly with the Special Friends Ministry on a regular basis (weekly or every other week) to confirm or cancel my attendance for that particular week my son/daughter is registered. **(We would like to know by Tuesday of each week as to whether or not your child will be here, but we understand that things come up last minute. Please communicate with us immediately when you need to cancel.)**
4. I understand the importance and agree to personally train my child's buddy when needed or when any changes occur with the needs of my child.
5. Safety Guidelines to Follow:
 - I will check my child into the area they are to go to and give my child over directly to his/her assigned buddy.
(birth-3 years to the tinytown Nursery)
(ages 4-7 years to upTOWN Preschool/Kindergarten)
(ages 8-12 years to DOWNTOWN Elementary)
(Special Friends sensory room)
 - If your child is developmentally delayed, we do place them by chronological age, not by their developmental abilities.
 - I will NOT leave my child without my child's assigned buddy being present.
 - I will debrief with my child's buddy prior to leaving to go to service.
 - I will debrief with my child's buddy when picking up my child after service.

Please communicate with the Special Friends Ministry Coordinator anytime you have concerns, changes, or needs that you would like to discuss.

I understand and agree to these guidelines. (Please sign where appropriate.)

Print Name of Mother	Signature of Mother	Date
Print Name of Father	Signature of Father	Date
Caregiver/Legal Guardian	Signature of Caregiver/Legal Guardian	Date

Main Contact Number _____