



Faithful Friends, Jr. (FF, Jr.) A Ministry of Parkside Church for Children & Youth with Special Needs

A Letter to Parents and Caregivers

We are delighted to have this opportunity to minister to your child and your family through Faithful Friends, Jr. Our vision for FF, Jr. is that every person at Parkside Church, regardless of abilities, intellect and skills would become a committed follower of Jesus Christ. *What does this mean?* We desire that this ministry will:

- Be a safe place for children to experience and know the love of Christ;
- Allow parents/caregivers to worship, free from worry about their children;
- Be a support group for families with children who have special needs.

We desire to do more than just provide a room—we *want to feed children's souls*. We want to show your child Christ's love! *How do we do this?* By praying with and for children with special needs whom God brings to our ministry. By teaching God's Word in ways that are meaningful to them. By manifesting good deeds to children with special needs and their families in our care of them. By loving them!

To aid you in transitioning your child into this ministry, we request the following:

1. Please fill out and return the FF Jr. Registration before placing your child in the ministry. This allows us to contact you to discuss your child's specific needs, assure adequate staffing for your child, and prepare special materials that may be needed. If your child will be integrating into one of our typical Sunday School classes, we still ask you to complete the registration, as it helps us prepare the classroom teacher and/or mentor to welcome your child.
2. For your child's first week(s), we ask that one parent attends WITH your child. This way you can observe firsthand what your child will be doing, interact with the classroom teacher and helpers, and offer helpful input about how we can best care for your child.
3. After the initial week(s) in the classroom, our team will confirm with you about leaving your child and attending worship. A security number will be issued to you and your child. This number allows us to page you on the screen if you are needed during the service and is the one you provide in order to pick your child up from the classroom.

What do we do each week? **We have fun!** We sing songs, learn from the Bible, enjoy arts & crafts, play, and eat snacks. All these activities are geared toward engaging the interests and abilities of your child. Our desired ratio is 1:1 so that each child has loving care and meaningful interactions.

We also offer care one Sunday night per month so that parents may participate in the worship service when there is Communion. This is usually the first Sunday of the month, but the schedule does fluctuate. We ask parents to RSVP in advance to ensure adequate staffing.

We look forward to the opportunities God gives us to minister to your child and your family. Please contact Renee Pecek in the church office if you'd like to be put in touch with our ministry leaders.



Faithful Friends, Jr. Registration



To help us better understand your child's gifts, interests and challenges, please fill out the information below and return to the church office (ATTN: Julie Pelletier) or to a FF, Jr. leader. Please be detailed and be sure to answer questions on back of page. Thank you!

Child's Name _____ Nickname? _____

Age _____ DOB ____/____/____ Grade Level if attending school _____

Home Address _____ City _____

Zip Code _____ Home Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Mother's Name (First & Last) _____ Cell phone (____) _____

Father's Name (First & Last) _____ Cell phone (____) _____

My child's specific diagnosis is: _____

My child's strengths/interests are: _____

My child has difficulty with: _____

Restroom habits: _____

Other information that would be helpful for the class leaders to know (Communication mode [if not verbal], favorite activities or toys, etc.):

What would be 2 goals (desires) you would like for your child in our FF, Jr. ministry?

Please check any special concerns your child has:

- Food allergies: _____
- Other allergies: _____
- Medical conditions: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Medications:	<u>Name/Dosage</u>	<u>Dosage to Be Administered</u>	<u>Time to Administer</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

If a medical incident/emergency should occur while your child is in our care (i.e., seizure, etc.), please indicate how we should respond (Ex: call you immediately, call 9-1-1 immediately, etc):

I affirm that all of the above information is accurate, and I grant permission for those giving care to my child to respond to a medical incident/emergency in the manner I have outlined above. If necessary, I authorize the staff of Faithful Friends, Jr. to administer medications as indicated above. I grant permission for the above information to be given to leaders who will be working with my child. I understand that this information will be kept in confidence by the staff.

Signature of Parent/Caregiver

Date

PLEASE COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE!

- What is the best way to encourage your child to transition?

- What is the best reward for your child?

- What current behaviors are you dealing with at home? How do you want us to handle these behaviors?

- If your child is melting down, what is the best way, in your experience to best comfort or transition your child?

- What behavior goals do you currently have that we may be able to reinforce?

- Are there specific dietary needs? What are their favorite snacks?

- Class agenda
 1. Free time activities: Do you have specific activities you know your child would enjoy or benefit from? Are there favorite toys your child loves? Also, if you ever feel we use the same toy or activity too much, please give us feedback or suggestions.

 2. Worship: Any songs or instruments your child enjoys?

 3. Story: Does your child read? Would they benefit from a one on one story time, or is corporate story satisfactory? Some kids do both, some like to read directly from the Bible themselves, some like to be read to one on one in a quiet setting.....

 4. Craft: includes Bible verse tracing/ memorization, coloring sheet and simple craft. Some kids really dislike crafts--do you want us to try to have your child do the craft?