

Large Group Time

During His earthly ministry, Jesus let the little children come to Him (Luke 18:16). **In following His example, what can you do to ensure that all children in your ministry are able to come and actively engage in Large Group Time?**

ACCOMMODATIONS

an alteration of environment, curriculum format, or equipment that allows an individual with a disability to gain access to content and complete assigned tasks. These allow children with disabilities to pursue a regular course of study.

MODIFICATION

a change in the curriculum. Modifications are made for students with disabilities who are unable to comprehend all of the content an instructor is teaching.

ADAPTATION

changes in the way instruction and assessment are carried out to allow a learner equal opportunity to demonstrate mastery of concepts and achieve the desired learning outcomes.

Practical Accommodations, Modifications, and Adaptations

Use a multi-sensory approach in your teaching.

- Involve all five senses - seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, tasting.
- Invite children to be part of the story.
- Provide sensory fidgets (pop toys, fidget cubes/spinners, stress balls, tangles, squiggles, etc.).

Adapt activities and lessons to your specific set of students.

- Speak at a lower tone and turn down the volume when playing media.
- Create a visual schedule of Large Group Time.
- Give kids a way to communicate with you if they are nonverbal or verbally limited Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)* or Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP)** visual communication systems.
- Allow navigation space for mobility equipment, wheelchairs, etc.

Provide literal interpretations of songs and important words.

- Pay attention to metaphors, analogies, and similes in teaching materials and songs.
- Define Christian phrases such as "saved", "righteousness", "born again", etc.

Don't discount incidental learning.

- Just because some children may appear to be unfocused, distracted, or disinterested doesn't mean they are not receiving, understanding, and benefiting from the class.

*Learn more at www.aacandautism.com/lamp

** Learn more at www.pecsusa.com/pecs/

For more insight on discipling kids and students with special needs check out **Awana's Special Needs Guide.**