

Small 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 Small 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

Establish a normal routine in Small Group Time.

- Ask volunteers to read aloud as opposed to having them ask a child to read.
- Have students work one-on-one with leaders (if possible).
- Move to a quiet space when reciting scripture then return to the group.
- Learn and say one verse before moving on to another.

Reinforce every student's progress.

- Some kids work twice as hard to accomplish half as much.
- Celebrate milestones and honor their attempts to motivate them to continue.
- Give each child the same award in front of their peers even if the section completed was modified.

*Learn more at www.aacandautism.com/lamp

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

Adapt memory work to your specific set of students.

- Utilize visual representation of verses.
- Accommodate length and verbiage of verses.
- Provide an explanation of verses being memorized for full comprehension.
- Allow space for mobility equipment and check table heights.

Consider alternate ways to recite verses.

- Use sign language with those who are nonverbal or verbally limited.
- Use Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP)* or Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS).**
- Put each word (or phrase) of the verse on a piece of paper and have students arrange the verse in order.
- Allow kids to write or type out the verse instead of saying the verse out loud.

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