

KIDS CARE RESOURCES OVERVIEW

Purpose

Kids Care resources exist to support kids with disabilities and additional needs in our Kids Ministries spaces so that they can participate at church! We have a variety of resources that work in the context of our ministry that fall under two categories: visual resources and fidgets.

Visual Resources

Visual resources provide kids with a visual cue for activities or routines that exist within a service. This helps kids have a clear understanding of expectations and provide structure to their time in Kids Ministries. This leads to reduced stress and anxiety, minimizes distractions and interruptions, and helps kids to feel more organized, confident, calm and in control of their activity and environment.



Contents + Storage

Storage of visual resources may vary by campus. All campuses have a file box which can be used.

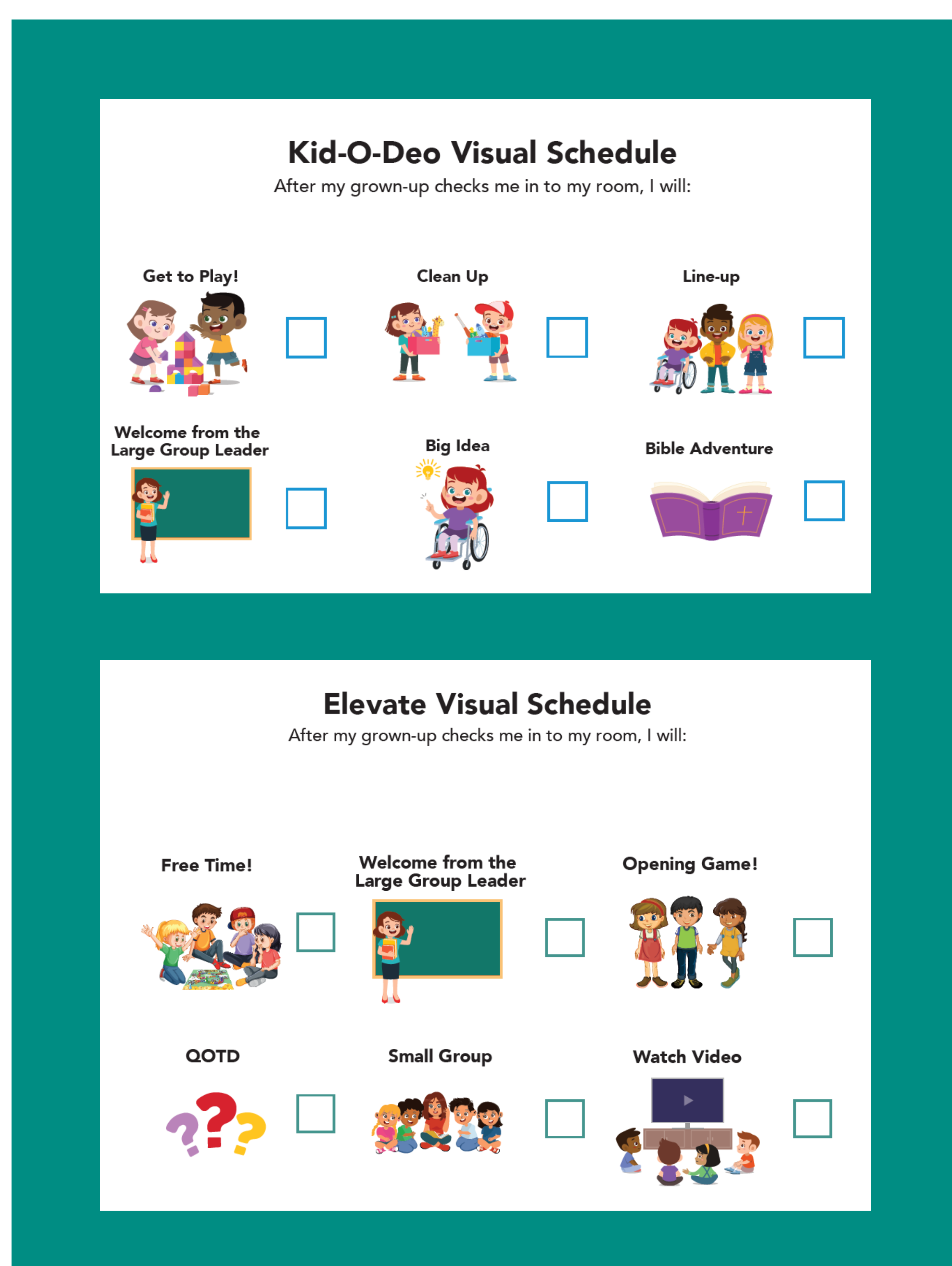
Tips for Use

Elevate and Kid-O-Deo Visual Schedules

- Put the visual schedule in the dry erase pockets. Have the kid check off each activity as it's completed. Model its use and verbally prompt the next steps one at a time, so as not to overwhelm the kid.

Decision Prayer

- This provides kids with a visual representation of the prayer to help kids have a clearer understanding of making a decision to follow Jesus.



Fidgets

Fidgets are physical objects that kids may use throughout a service for the following functions:
alerting/attention/focus, calming, chewing, resistive & heavy input, and tactile stimulation.

Contents + Storage

Fidget storage may vary by campus. Keep fidgets in the large group rooms for both Kid-O-Deo and Elevate in a place that volunteers know and can access easily, but that kids are not able to access without the help of a volunteer.

Buddy Bags

Buddy Bags are blue, drawstring bags with the Eagle Brook logo. Kids Care volunteers should gather fidgets/resources beneficial for a particular kiddo and place them in the Buddy Bag to be used during service.

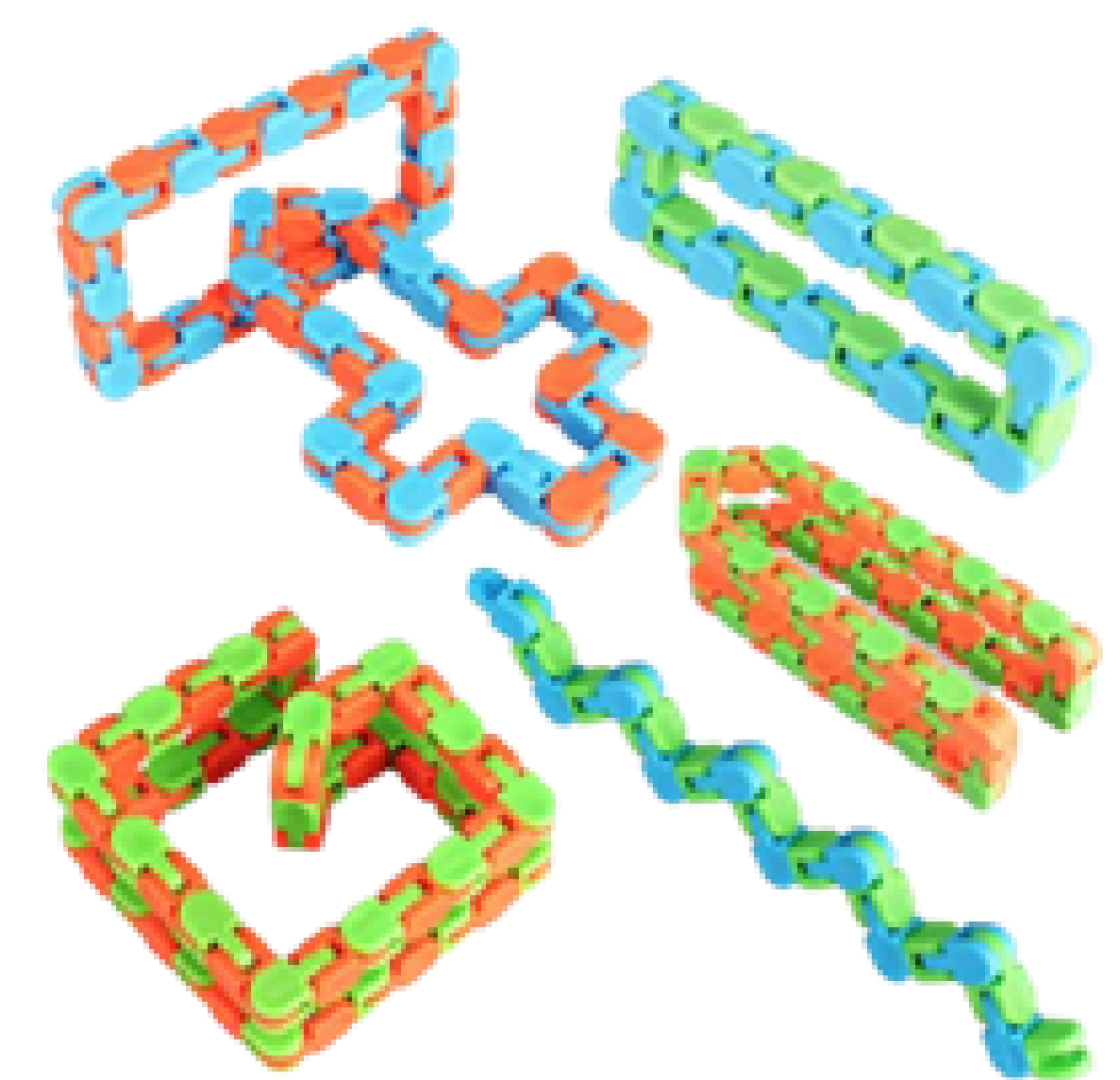


Alerting/Attention/Focus

Some kids need a bit of stimulation to help them focus. A little noise, color, or light in a fidget may help with their ability to focus. Alerting fidgets can help your child with focus and attention, as well as give them a positive way to release energy and need to move.



Tangle Jr.



Wacky Tracks

Calming

Calming fidgets are generally quiet and engage a kid with sight, touch, or a combination of both. These fidgets provide:

- a calm way to release energy
- help to calm them from sensory overload
- help to focus and attend
- help to calm thoughts and emotions that may be developing into a stressful situation



Calming Bottles



Dry Erase Board + Markers



Squeeze + Release Balls



Headphones

Chewing

Some kids like to chew on toys and other items to help them focus or calm themselves. Chewing is a very common way for a child to calm, focus, and self-regulate – especially for those on the autism spectrum and/or sensory processing and integration needs.

Many parents of kids that have sensory processing and integration needs are concerned about the constant chewing on clothing, furniture, their hair, fingers, and toes – as well as concern for damage to their kid’s teeth. One of the easiest first things to do is to give your kid something else to chew on which is designed for the “chewer” and is also child-safe and child-friendly. Any resources needed for a child to chew will be purchased for that child specifically.

Tip: If a kid uses a fidget for chewing, be sure to clean it well after each use. Place the clean fidget into a Ziploc bag with the child’s name on it and place it in a location where the child can access it next time they are at church.

Resistive + Heavy Input

Some kids want more than just touch-and-feel textured items. For kids who want to push and pull or need heavier pressure stimulation, they may need fidget items that provide a heavier more resistive sensory feeling. This input will help them achieve a level of calm and sensory organization in their world.



Bilibo Seat



Sit Disk



Weighted Lap Pad

Tactile Stimulation

Many kids with sensory processing disorders crave touch and tactile experiences. Tactile fidgets give some kids what they need to help them focus, use energy in a positive way, and help them calm themselves during stressful times. Tactile stimulation may be to hands, body, head, feet, or mouth – every kid is different!



Koosh Balls



Stretch Strings



Stretch Balls



Marble Fidgets

iPads

Each campus should have two iPads specifically designated for Kids Care (1 for KOD and 1 for ELEV.) There are 7 categories of apps added to each iPad: Bible Activities, Books, Calming, Coloring, Games, Music, Sensory Calm, and Social Skills. In addition, the Clock on the front page. Use the Clock feature as a timer. The Eagle Brook app is also loaded on the main page so that kids can watch the Kids Ministries media! These should be cleaned after each use and returned to the charger, ready to be used by the next kid and volunteer. Any extra iPads will need to be ordered through IT.

