



Next Gen Care Overview

Purpose

Next Gen Care supports kids and students with disabilities and additional needs birth – Grade 12 so that they can attend church and know Jesus!

It is our goal that kids, and students are:

- Known, welcomed, loved, and cared for.
- Kept safe (physically, emotionally, and spiritually).
- Able to hear the message of Christ and follow Jesus!
- Able to engage with their peers.

Campuses offer volunteer support for kids and students with disabilities and additional needs within our early childhood (Kid-O-Deo), elementary (Elevate), and student (GZ and Rev) ministries.

Scope of Next Gen Care

We offer an inclusive model of care for kids and students with disabilities or additional needs provided by volunteer support: Room Assistant and Side-by-Side. Being the support is from volunteers, it is subject to the availability of the volunteer. In some cases, medical or behavioral needs may be beyond the capability of our volunteer teams. For the safety of the kid/student and others in the space, we may determine that we cannot offer assistance. Connect with the Kids Ministries Developer for guidance when determining if assistance cannot be provided. Based on the completed questionnaire the following would be determined:

Independent – Minimal Support

Kids and students may need little to no supervision despite their disabilities or additional needs. It is still helpful to be aware of these diagnoses etc. Support can be provided by the typical volunteers in each of the ministry areas.

If the completed questionnaire states, the kid, or student needs a Room Assistant or Side-by-Side volunteer an initial meeting needs to be scheduled with a parent or caregiver to establish how we can best partner with them and their child during their church experience.

Room Assistant Volunteer – Moderate Support

Room Assistant volunteers provide support to multiple kids or students who need basic help with attention, redirection, sensory needs, or social interaction. They work to meet the needs



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of kids/students, connect with parents following the service and communicate with staff/volunteer leaders on best support for each kid.

Side-by-Side Volunteer – Direct Support

Side-by-Side volunteers partner with families who feel their kid/student would benefit from a 1:1 volunteer based on higher physical, developmental, or behavioral needs. A Side-by-Side volunteer **works with the family directly** and will be present with a kid/student from start to finish during the service or event following best practices for inclusion.

Families may provide their own personal care assistant (PCA) to work with their child. Just as with all adults serving in Kids Ministries, we require a background check and for the PCA to work within the established guidelines of Kids Ministries.

*Our Room Assistant and Side-by-Side volunteers are supported by a Next Gen Care Trainer. They provide initial training and ongoing development for all Next Gen Care volunteers.

Next Gen Care Transition Year

We offer an inclusive model of support and care for kids and students with disabilities and additional needs, and we believe it is best for kids/students to be with their peers as they attend church and learn about Jesus. We also recognize that transitions can be difficult especially for kids with disabilities and additional needs. Therefore, we want to give the option to those within Kids Care to stay in Elevate for an additional year once they complete 5th grade, before transitioning to Student Ministries. This should be approached individually as not every child will need this accommodation. The Pastor of Kids Ministries or Kids Ministries Associate should connect with the parent/guardian when determining next best steps.