



## Embrace Buddy Program

CBC's Buddy ministry is a program designed to support our special needs community by pairing an individual with a disability with a buddy during church services so that they can better participate in the mainstream programs of the church.

*What Buddies Provide:*

***A Buddy Provides Discipleship-*** CBC buddies exhibit the fruit of the Spirit because his or her life has been transformed by the redeeming power of Jesus Christ. With that as a foundation, Buddies can work alongside the classroom teacher to help communicate the gospel and take their friends deeper in the Word.

***A Buddy Provides Friendship-*** CBC buddies get to know the individual they are paired with as a person. They discover what they have in common and what they can learn from the other person. They might develop a relationship that has inside jokes, favorite activities, and shared experiences. They enjoy spending time together.

***A Buddy Helps Provide Safety-*** Safety is of paramount importance in any ministry. Physical safety from environmental harm, whether due to emergency situations or to the malicious intentions of other people, factors into how we do ministry at every level.

***A Buddy Provides Participation-*** The goal is for each of our friends to participate as fully as he or she can—both in the activities of the day and in the social opportunities created by the group environment.

***A Buddy Provides Communication Assistance-*** Buddies help their friends communicate with others. Often kids, teens, and adults with special needs will have unique communication barriers and unique ways of crossing those barriers. Buddies can facilitate communication by helping their friend be heard. When we listen, we communicate to our friends that they are important. Communication is the cornerstone on which we build friendships.

***A Buddy Helps Provide Positive Reinforcement to Shape Behavior-*** Understanding that all behavior is ultimately communication helps buddies as they build relationships with their friends. CBC buddies connect with the parents and caregivers because they are an invaluable source of information on what makes their loved one tick. Often buddies discover that there is already a working behavior management system in place that they can continue/reinforce during their time together at church.

**If you are interested in engaging in this program or serving as a Buddy,  
please contact us at: [embrace@cbcva.org](mailto:embrace@cbcva.org).**