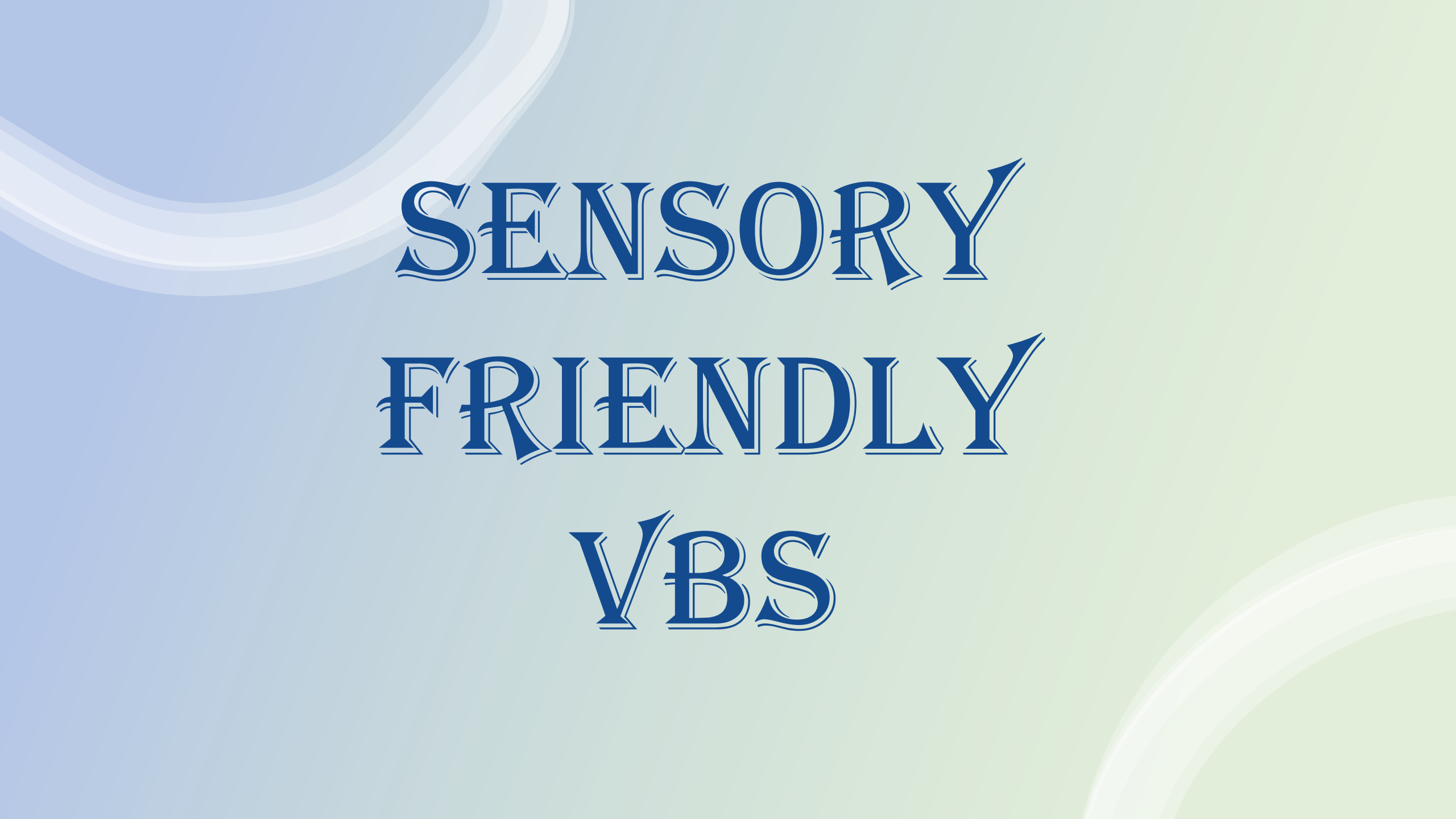


KEEPERS OF THE KINGDOM

The logo for 'Keepers of the Kingdom' is a stylized, 3D-rendered title. The words 'KEEPERS' and 'KINGDOM' are in large, bold, yellow letters with a dark blue outline. The word 'OF THE' is smaller and positioned between them. The letter 'O' in 'KINGDOM' is replaced by a blue target with a red arrow hitting the bullseye. The entire title is flanked by two yellow castle towers with red flags on top. The background is a vibrant, cartoonish landscape with rolling green hills, a blue sky with white clouds, and a rainbow arching over the scene.

Showcase Event



SENSORY FRIENDLY VBS



WHY WE DO SENSORY FRIENDLY VBS



- Our reason for starting a sensory friendly VBS is Cylie.
- Mainstream VBS was way too much for Cylie. She cried and held her hands over her ears.

- We knew there had to be a way to provide a safe VBS for Cylie, even if she was the only one who participated.



HOW WE DO SENSORY FRIENDLY VBS

- Training was the first thing we researched.
- We agreed that if we could not present a quality program we wouldn't have one.
- We went to a seminar put on by PEATC (Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center)

- The representative from PEATC agreed to come to our church for a day of training.
- We also purchased the video training from AiG by Stacia McKeever.



WHO WE DO
SENSORY
FRIENDLY
VBS FOR

- We knew that there was a tremendous need for a sensory friendly VBS. We also knew that adults have almost no resources to help them. We opened our VBS to all ages.
- Not everyone was on board with that decision, and that was ok. It takes a special person to see the need.

- Our first year we tried an all day VBS but decided that we wanted to do a week long VBS just like our mainstream program.
- We had 5 participants our first year and we knew this was a God ordained program!



WHEN WE DO SENSORY FRIENDLY VBS

- We do our sensory friendly VBS before our mainstream program. This insures the decorations are fresh *and we are not exhausted.*
- Sometimes we have a week in between to give our workers a chance to rest.

- We make the schedule flexible so everyone gets to do what they like and are comfortable with. We have hour long sessions. Some of the kids like to stay in music, some like crafts. We are just grateful they come and have fun!

- Everyone is invited back to our Festive Finale' the Friday night of mainstream. We have a program to show what the kids have learned then head out to blowups and a meal.



WHERE
WE DO
SENSORY
FRIENDLY
VBS

- We host VBS at our church and try to limit the amount of moving around to make it easier on the kids.
- We have made sure that both levels of the church are handicap accessible and have a fenced in playground to ensure the safety of the "runners".

- We use the prayer room as a calming room. We also provide a basket of fidgets and things that help keep little hands busy while they attend.
- Each person in attendance receives the foam squishy that comes from AiG for stress relief.



WHAT WE DO AT SENSORY FRIENDLY VBS

- We do 5 nights of VBS. We have one lady who teaches every class, every night. The kids love her and the puppet skit.

- We provide each participant with a backpack that goes along with the theme filled with a t-shirt, pencil, pad of paper, bookmark, the squishy and the devotionals that go with the theme.

- We are sure to include music, lesson, craft, games and snacks. We stay flexible so that everyone who wants to participate has a good time and learns! (Even when they don't seem to listen, they are taking it all in)
- Flexibility is the key to a successful sensory friendly VBS.

- The special needs community is one of the least reached groups in the church. Jesus loves this community and wants them to be shown His love. We are His hands and feet extended to make that happen!



QUESTIONS
????????????????

- How do we modify decorations?
- We do not make any modifications to the decorations.

- How do we modify the lesson?

We use the puppet to tell the lesson and make it very simple, usually teaching from the pre primary guide.

- Modifications to other components?
- Crafts- slow the pace and keep it uncomplicated
- Snacks- offer snacks but don't force it

- Games- We have an enclosed playground.
- Music- We do not modify music except to lower the volume

- The Special Needs Teacher's Guide is a fantastic resource, especially if you are doing a sensory friendly program for the first time!

- Where do we advertise?
- We use the large yard signs, 2 at our church and 2 in town.
- We advertise at local businesses, pediatricians, and PT/OT offices.

- Word of mouth is the best advertisement, particularly in the special needs community.
- Most of the participants come from the community because they know someone who is involved with VBS.

- Be willing to be flexible.
- Know your students and play to their strengths.

- Who do we hope to reach?
- Anyone, children or adults who need a scaled down version of VBS.



CAROL-
276-378-0423
CANDY-
CYLIE2012@
YAHOO.COM



