

The Invisible Buddy

Every church classroom needs a superhero! When it comes to classroom behavior management, The Invisible Buddy, is ready to save the day.

1. The Role

An invisible buddy is a volunteer position that helps bridge the gap for students who don't need a regularly scheduled one-on-one buddy every week, but do need extra support from time to time. Invisible Buddies have extra positive behavior support training and resources, just like a disability ministry one-on-one buddy would have, BUT the invisible buddy is not assigned to any particular student. Instead, he floats around the classroom and assists ANY student who needs extra behavioral support that day.

The right candidate for this position should have these competencies: someone who is calm, warm, and firm. He should be able to balance compassion with boundaries, be comfortable serving with students he doesn't know well, and having experience with disability is not required, but is helpful.

2. Training

Invisible Buddies should understand basic positive behavior support skills such as: Serving students who are strong-willed, anxious, distracted, and have sensory overloaded. He should also know how to set students up for success and help transition, from one activity to the next. Being familiar with Autism Spectrum Disorder and some general knowledge of what may be helpful here is also a plus. Invisible Buddies should also have access to helpful resources such as visual aids, fidgets, noise-cancelling headphones, weighted items and more. These can be placed in "Buddy Boxes" within the classroom.

3. Service

Invisible Buddies should start the service in whichever classroom has the greatest need for extra positive behavior support. This may change each week.