

## Our Mission

To provide a safe and supportive environment for children who have special needs to learn about the love of God, in order to equip both children and their families to become and help others become faithful servants of Jesus Christ.

## What We Do

- ★ Provide a safe and supportive environment for children who have special needs and their families
- ★ Provide opportunities for children who have special needs to learn about God's love through age appropriate activities in an inclusive setting
- ★ Offer parents of children who have special needs the support necessary for them to participate in the life of the church through weekly bible study and worship.

## What We Believe

- ★ All people are created by God in his image (Gen. 1:26-27).
- ★ All people are fearfully & wonderfully made (Ps. 139:13-16).
- ★ Persons who have special needs are an indispensable part of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).



## Meet Victoria Bye

### Hearts & Hands Coordinator



My name is Victoria Bye, and I have the wonderful privilege of serving as the Hearts and Hands Coordinator. I teach special education at a local high school and am so thankful for the opportunity to get to use my passion to serve the church on a weekly basis. I love Hearts and Hands because this ministry gives children and teens who have disabilities the opportunity to learn about Jesus every Sunday in a safe, fun, engaging, and gospel-centered environment.

### MORE INFORMATION:

For any questions or additional information about Hearts & Hands, please contact the **Hearts & Hands Coordinator, Victoria Bye** at [vbye@dawsonchurch.org](mailto:vbye@dawsonchurch.org).



## GUIDELINES



**DAWSON**  
*Family of Faith*

Dawson Memorial Baptist Church  
1114 Oxmoor Road | Birmingham, Alabama 35209  
(205) 871.7324 | [www.dawsonchurch.org](http://www.dawsonchurch.org)

## Sunday School & Worship

- ★ We currently offer Hearts & Hands during our 9:40 a.m. Sunday School hour and during 11:00 a.m. worship
- ✧ We do not administer medication.
- ✧ For the safety of your child and our buddies, we will provide extra assistance in the restroom only with written parental permission (*this is included in the intake form*).
- ✧ In addition, any and all assistance in the restroom will be given in the presence of two volunteers (*one of whom must be paid staff*).
- ★ Your child's individual needs will be determined in which class they are placed during the 9:40 a.m. hour. However, the Paul Myers' Hearts & Hands room is available for all participants at both 9:40 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

## Admittance

- ★ A special need is any physical, sensory or cognitive impairment which may cause a child to need extra assistance or support, either on a short-term or long-term basis.
- ★ We provide assistance for children and teenagers ranging from infants to 18 years of age.



## Our Buddies

- ★ All buddies are required to complete Dawson's Child Abuse Protection Policy before they are allowed to work with children.
- ★ All buddies are ministry volunteers, not trained professionals, who have an incredible desire to love and serve you and your child.
- ★ Training for our buddies is best provided by a child's family. They are the greatest experts on caring for a child and are their single greatest advocate, and serve as an invaluable resource for Hearts & Hands buddies.



## Guidelines

Prior to a child participating in the Hearts & Hands ministry, we ask all parents or guardians to complete a detailed intake form and to meet with the Hearts & Hands Coordinator. We encourage this for several reasons:

1. To determine how Hearts & Hands can best serve the child and his/her family.
2. To provide an opportunity for the family to meet the Hearts & Hands coordinator, in order that they can begin to become familiar with each other.
3. To allow both the family and the child to visit our facility in order to acclimate themselves to the surroundings.

After this initial meeting, the Hearts & Hands Coordinator, will continue to work with the parents to determine which programs and activities are best for the child.

## Parent Responsibilities

- ★ Turn in completed intake form and meet with the Hearts & Hands Coordinator prior to attending any Dawson program.
- ★ Contact the coordinator when a child will not participate in a scheduled class activity - including both absences known in advance and last minute changes.