



AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR YOUR CHILD WITH DOWN SYNDROME

Are you looking for after-school childcare or after-school activities?

<i>If you are looking for after-school childcare run by the school and housed at the school...</i>	<i>If you are looking for after-school activities that take place at the school...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Your child cannot be excluded because of a disability. ▪ Reasonable accommodations must be made for your child. ▪ The accommodations may <u>not</u> be the same as those described in his/her IEP document. ▪ Discuss your child's strengths and challenges with the program director. ▪ Ask about the expectations for all students participating and make suggestions for appropriate accommodations for your student. ▪ Examples of accommodations might include: materials at a lower level, partnering with a willing peer, and visual reminders of the rules. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ These activities might include scouts, clubs, or sessions on special topics such as music, art, sports, etc. ▪ Your child cannot be excluded because of a disability (Section 504, Americans with Disabilities Act). ▪ Reasonable accommodations must be made and may be different than what your child receives during the academic day (Section 504, Americans with Disabilities Act). ▪ Discuss your child's participation with the adult leader of the program and make suggestions for appropriate accommodations for your student. ▪ Check in with the adult leader every few weeks as to how your child's participation is progressing.

Are you interested in having your child participate in community activities after school which are run by a community group rather than the school?

<i>Community Activities to Consider</i>	<i>Suggestions for Success</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Boy or girl scout troops may meet at a church or other community site. ▪ Organized sports such as Little League or community football or soccer teams. ▪ Parks department activities such as art classes, swimming classes, or dance classes for a small fee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Your child cannot be excluded due to a disability. ▪ You have a right to expect some reasonable accommodations be made (Section 504, Americans with Disabilities Act). ▪ Ask for time with the adult leader to discuss your child's skills, strengths, and challenges. ▪ Offer ideas for accommodations and ask for the leader's thoughts on accommodations, as well. ▪ Be flexible and check in periodically to be sure that accommodations are working for your child.

References:

After School Activities and Programs for Students with Disabilities: Navigate Life Texas

<https://www.navigatelifetexas.org/en/education-schools/after-school-activities-programs-for-students-with-disabilities>

Afterschool and Students with Special Needs: Afterschool Alert Issue Brief

<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/Special%20Needs%20B34%20final.pdf>

Wrightslaw: Department of Education Guidance on Extracurricular Activities

<https://www.wrightslaw.com/blog/doe-guidance-on-legal-obligations-for-extracurricular-activities/>