



# Tips for Working with Scouts with Special Needs & Abilities

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# Communication

- Say the Scout's name before giving instructions
- Avoid a lot of noise and distractions
- Reword your questions
- Break your directions into smaller steps
- Allow time to answer you
- Get to the point
- If you do not understand, ask the Scout to repeat it
- Ask the Scout to repeat what you said for understanding
- Do not put them first in line- allow them to observe others





# Behavior/Attention to Task

- Picture or word schedule; visual agenda
- Use stations with hands-on activities
- Use multiple speakers
- Give a time warning to end of the activity so the Scout knows when to expect time up
- Have a break card available (stick, card, token)- they have to ask to leave, not walk away





# Social Issues

- Peer Buddy/Older Scout as good role models to show expected behavior.
- Adult Scouter as mentor for advice and meltdowns
- Assign an area for participation, visual cue of where to stand/sit
- May have to increase participation time
- The Scout will not pick up on social cues so you state the obvious.





# Sensory Issues

- Loud noises- may cover his ears, need earplugs or headphones.
- Tell the Scout ahead of time what to expect.
- The Scout may need a break: go for a walk, go to an area, sit away for a few minutes
- Have the Scout stay for a short time in the activity and increase the amount of time of participation.
- Tell the Scout where you are going to touch before touching.
- Water on the face is a real fear. Be patient. Keep increasing expectation but be sensitive and kind to their fear.
- A Scout with sensory issues may need deep pressure activities to help them organize their thoughts and regulate emotion (thumb in palm pressure, squeeze arms to shoulders)

