



hope

"Buddy Break is such a gift for my family! My kids have found a place where they fit right in, are cared for, and loved in ways that sometimes I, as an exhausted mom, just can't do. My son with special needs has a wonderful time playing with his Buddy and his sibling gets to talk to other children "like me, with a special brother or sister." Meanwhile, I have time to get a few things done, reconnect with friends, or even just sit still with a sense of peace so that I can be a stronger and better parent. Thank you so much for all you do. I am incredibly grateful!"

~Lucette, VIP Parent

Other Programs offered by Nathaniel's Hope to support VIP Kids and their Families



VIP Birthday Club

VIP kids become national club members and are celebrated with a card on their birthday, plus other special recognition throughout the year. Kids can also have their picture and a story online.



Bearing Hope

A loveable, plush beanie bear is given to VIP kids to communicate the hope that we share through Nathaniel's Hope.



Make 'm Smile

This annual community event is dedicated to celebrating VIP kids and their families.



Caroling for Kids

We share hope and encouragement with patients, families, and caregivers at children's hospitals and with homebound VIP families on Christmas day through caroling, prayer, and bearing goodies and gifts.



Hall of Hope

We remember VIP kids who have relocated to their heavenly home. Cards are sent to families on their child's birth date and homegoing date. Join us online in remembering the imprint they have made on our hearts and lives.



2300 Jetport Drive
Orlando, Florida 32809
T: 407-857-8224
www.NathanielsHope.org

Giving caregivers of KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS a break!



fun for kids



What is Buddy Break?

Buddy Break is a free kids/respite program where kids with special needs (VIP kids) make new friends, play fun games, enjoy crafts, therapy dogs, stories, music, activities and more! Siblings have fun too! Meanwhile, their caregivers get a break from their ongoing care-giving responsibilities for three hours one Friday night or one Saturday morning a month.

Why is there a need for Buddy Break?

The weight and stress of finding proper doctors, teachers, and financial resources for a VIP child's care can be overwhelming. Those responsibilities, along with the never-ending demands of daily care-giving and life in general, leave little opportunity for caregivers to take time for themselves, run errands, or spend time with a spouse or other children—things desperately needed to survive. Buddy Break provides a safe place for VIPs and their siblings to have fun and establish meaningful friendships with other kids and adults while their caregivers get a break.



"For I know the plans I have for you"
says the Lord... "to give you
a future and
a hope"

~ Jeremiah 29:11



Who are VIP kids?

VIPs are kids with special needs, which include any physical, cognitive, medical or hidden disability, chronic or life-threatening illness, or those who are medically fragile.

Who are Buddies? Buddies are friends of VIPs.



How do I sign up as a VIP?

This program is for VIP children birth ages: 2-16 years old, and their siblings: 4 years old-5th grade. Some Buddy Break locations expand their program based on their ability to serve a wider age range.

To Sign Up:

1. Identify a location where you'd like to attend Buddy Break at www.BuddyBreak.org or call the Nathaniel's Hope office.
2. Complete the secure online VIP Family Info Form.
3. Call your preferred location to reserve your space at a required VIP orientation. This allows the Buddies to meet you and your children and gives you a chance to see Buddy Break before you begin participating. Orientation is held monthly at each Buddy Break location.

How do I sign up to be a Buddy?

No previous experience with VIP kids is necessary to be a Buddy, just a loving heart, open arms, and a willingness to learn. Each VIP kid is paired one-on-one with a screened volunteer Buddy, who is at least 14 years of age and has completed a two-hour Buddy Training 101 class. Doctors, nurses, therapists, and special education teachers are also invited to participate.

As a Buddy, identify a Buddy Break location where you would like to serve—visit www.BuddyBreak.org for a list of locations or call the Nathaniel's Hope office. Then contact your preferred location to schedule a visit.

Where is Buddy Break?

Buddy Break is a growing ministry to the VIP community done in partnership between Nathaniel's Hope and local churches across the nation. Once a VIP attends orientation or a volunteer becomes an official Buddy, he or she may participate in any Buddy Break program anywhere by calling the location to make a reservation.

Nathaniel's Hope is building a national network of churches and Buddies to serve VIP kids and their families. To see where our expansion has taken us, visit our website. If you would like to start a Buddy Break program, please contact Nathaniel's Hope and we will provide your church with the training and tools to make Buddy Break an easy, safe, and successful program!



www.NathanielsHope.org