

Special Needs School, Leon
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The special needs school in Leon serves 150 to 200 students a day. Their disabilities include visually handicapped and blind, hearing impaired, mentally, physically and emotionally handicapped, downs syndrome, autistic, wheelchair bound.

The classes range from 4 to 15 students each depending on age and disability. Their ages are from kindergarten to 15 years.

20+ teachers are also dispersed throughout the community to assist with students in the mainstream education and infant to 4 years of age.

Occupational and physical therapies are provided at the school but therapy equipment is very limited. All the school administrators and teachers are very well educated and the love for their students is great.

Even though we had a language barrier, a big smile, demonstration and sometimes hand-over-hand assistance made all of our activities a success. Of course, the teachers and our great translators helped immensely. It's great if you know some sign language too!

Snacks and candy are always a treat for these children.

The children did a dance for us and we sang Jesus Loves Me and used sign language in return. We were truly blessed by our morning at the special needs school.

Activities we tried and worked well:

Outside – “Monster Games” (found at Toys R Us)

Large, blow-up basketball, volleyball, soccer, bowling

Huge beach ball

Bubble station – individual bubbles, big wands to make huge bubbles

Crafts

- Stamp art (large stamps, finger stamps)
- Polaroid picture (child decorates frame)
- Sand Art – “stain glass” crosses
- Gauze – butterflies – painted with water colors
- Cross necklaces with colored beads (kids string the beads)
- “Paper-lantern” cross – painted

Jobs for other teams

***Top Priority

- Playground – mow, trim
- Paint equipment
- Balls: soccer, basketballs, beach balls, kick balls
- Parachute (has handles, kids hold on and raise and lower their arms)

and try to keep the beach ball from falling off)

- Paint classrooms and therapy room – requested bright colors***
- Stucco office building
- Paint outside total
- Build a puppet theater

Needed Equipment/Supplies

***Top Priority

- Spanish Braille machine***
- Small gas stove
- TV/VCR/DVD combination with movies and DVDs
- Boom box with CDs
- Fine motor manipulatives: puzzles, lacing, simple board games, stacking toys, dominoes
- Dance costumes
- Puppets

Grooming Supplies

- Hair brushes
- Tooth brushes / toothpaste
- Nail brushes, files, polish
- Curling iron
- Deodorant/soaps
- Disposable safety razor

Classroom Supplies-

Large clear storage bags (like those used for sweaters, etc.) would be helpful to keep things organized and clean.

Supplies to develop daily living skills:

Small simple bedroom set (to learn to make bed, put away clothes, housekeeping skills)

- Bed – mattress in frame
- Sheets, blanket, pillow
- Clothing set

Sewing supplies: yarn, thread, needles, material, buttons, zippers

Carpentry tools: hammer, nails, screws, screwdriver

Cooking supplies: pots, pans, measuring cups and spoons, utensils, plates

Dressing supplies: shoes that tie, socks, shorts that zip, shirts with buttons, pullovers, bras that hook