



# Tips for hosting a Sensory Friendly Touch-A-Truck with First Responders

## PLAN AHEAD

SET THE ENVIRONMENT UP FOR SUCCESS. ONLY INCLUDE ITEMS THAT ARE SAFE FOR KIDS TO TOUCH & PLAY WITH.



## CREATE A NATURAL BARRIER



SET UP VEHICLES, TABLES, AND ACTIVITIES AROUND THE PERIMETER CREATING A NATURAL BARRIER AND REDUCING THE RISK OF ELOPEMENT.

## SENSORY SAFE

LIGHTS & SIRENS CAN INCREASE STRESS AND RISK OF SEIZURE.

WHEN CREATING A SENSORY SAFE ENVIRONMENT, DON'T FORGET TO TURN DOWN OR MUTE OTHER ALARMS & WALKIES.



## HUDDLE-UP



BEFORE THE EVENT BEGINS HAVE A MEETING WITH YOUR TEAM TO HELP CLARIFY THE EXPECTATIONS AND GIVE MEMBERS AN IDEA OF WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN WORKING WITH SPECIAL NEEDS FAMILIES.

## CREATE A BREAK SPACE

DESIGNATE AN AREA AWAY FROM LOUD NOISES & CROWDS WHERE INDIVIDUALS CAN TAKE A BREAK IF NEEDED.



## USE VISUALS



USE VISUALS SUCH AS STOP SIGNS TO IDENTIFY AREAS THAT MAY BE OFF LIMITS. OTHER VISUALS HIGHLIGHTING WHERE TO WAIT, WHERE TO TAKE A BREAK, & DIFFERENT ACTIVITY AREAS CAN BE HELPFUL.

## SUSPEND JUDGMENT & COMMENTS

SENSORY FRIENDLY EVENTS ALLOW FOR FAMILIES TO INTERACT IN A JUDGMENT FREE ZONE CREATING A SAFE SPACE FOR SPECIAL NEEDS FAMILIES.



## TAKE THE PARENTS LEAD



MELTDOWNS HAPPEN! IF A KIDDO HAS A HARD TIME CHECK IN WITH THE PARENT OR CAREGIVER HOW YOU CAN BE HELPFUL.

## Public Safety Special Needs Coalition

For more helpful tips and information visit

[www.pssncrri.com](http://www.pssncrri.com)