



SPECIAL NEEDS | FIELD GUIDE

When school pickup changes suddenly

Give your child a clear sequence and keep the handoff accountable.

A note from Victoria

A pickup change can be a small schedule edit for adults and a huge uncertainty for a child. I know how much care goes into the ordinary handoff.

What to do

Tell the school who is authorized to pick up and confirm its verification process. Give your child the change in the communication format they use: a picture, written note, device message, or spoken sequence. Say what stays the same and who will meet them. Ask staff who will tell your child and how they will confirm the handoff. Follow school policy and any legal custody instructions.

Words you can use

"Today [person] is picking you up. [Staff member] will tell you before the last bell. We will still go home after school."

One useful step I can take today:

I could start with: Confirm one named staff contact and one way the child will receive the update.

The strength I see in you

You are protecting predictability while managing a real-world change.

Educational peer support, not individualized medical, legal, or school advice. Partner with your child and their care or school team; consult a qualified advocate about rights questions.



SPECIAL NEEDS | WORKSHEET

When school pickup changes suddenly

Use this page in your own words. You can leave any part blank.

Who is authorized for pickup today

How my child will be told

Who confirms the handoff

My next manageable step

A person, service, or place I can turn to (if useful)

Educational peer support, not individualized medical, legal, or school advice. Partner with your child and their care or school team; consult a qualified advocate about rights questions.