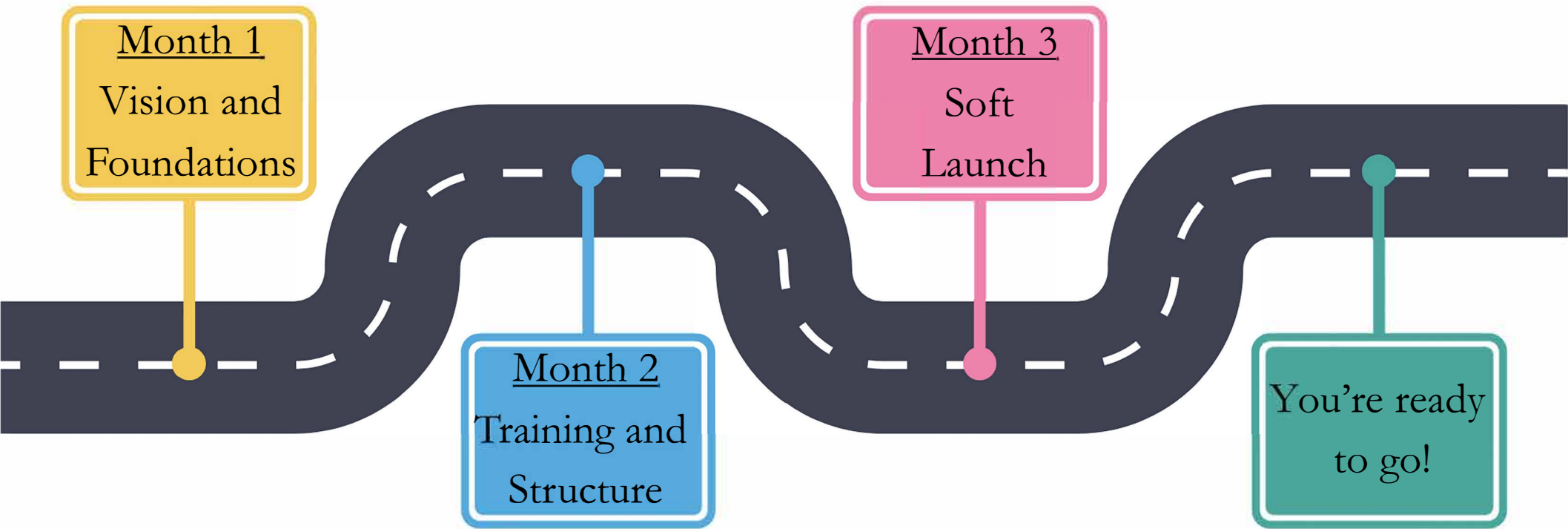


Roadmap to Starting a Special Needs Ministry in 90 Days



Month 1

1. Meet with the lead pastor to share the vision and secure leadership support.
2. Appoint a Special Needs Ministry Leader to oversee the ministry.
3. Assess your church campus for classrooms and/or quiet spaces.
4. Begin recruiting a core team of volunteers who have a heart for the disability community. They don't need to be specially trained, just a heart for the ministry.

Month 2

1. Host a volunteer training covering disabilities, safety, and behavioral support.
2. With the help of the Guidebook, create simple registration and safety forms.
3. Develop a volunteer schedule. You may need 1-on-1 or 3-on-1 care, depending on the child/adult in the room. If you are integrated into a neurotypical ministry, you will need 1-on-1.

Month 3

1. Personally invite families from the church and local community.
2. Launch one service to get started and grow from there.
3. Gather feedback from volunteers and families.
4. Adjust systems and continue growing the ministry.

Many churches discover that starting small allows them to grow sustainably. Within a year, many ministries expand into respite nights, buddy systems, special needs worship services, and adult ministries. You may also see that you will need to split into various ministry needs: preschool, elementary, teen, and adult. The important thing to remember is to just start and make room in your church for this amazing community.