

Catechetical Resources for Families of Children with Disability



Faith, Family, and Children with Special Needs: How Catholic Parents and their Kids with Special Needs Can Develop a Richer Spiritual Life Rizzo, David, Loyola Press, 2012. Offers great hope for parents who want to grow in their own spirituality while helping their children with disabilities experience God in a deeper way. Rizzo's abiding though sometimes tested Catholic faith is made clear as he explains everything from the practical, such as how parents can maintain sanity during Mass when the

child with special needs becomes disruptive, to the profound, such as how parents can understand God in a way that is relevant to their predicament. At other times, Rizzo's advice is intended to help the child grow in his or her own faith, as when he explains how kids with special needs can participate meaningfully in the Eucharist.

How to Welcome, Include, and Catechize Children with Autism and Other Special Needs: A Parish-based

Approach (Book) Sutton, Lawrence R., Loyola Press, 2013. Deacon Larry Sutton provides bishops, pastors, DREs, and other diocesan and parish leaders with a guide for creating a program that addresses the needs of children with physical, developmental, and cognitive disabilities and welcomes them into the life of the parish. Provide one-on-one customized catechesis using existing resources, inspire teens to volunteer, and revitalize, educate, and involve the entire parish. The book also provides the insights needed to build an effective faith formation program.

Children's Ministry Pocket Guide to Special Needs Quick Tips to Reach Every Child Group Publishing, 2008.

Discover teaching techniques-plus tips for parents and other kids in the classroom. You'll understand how to make children with special needs part of your ministry, and give them roles where they can thrive-and grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Helping Kids Include Kids with Disabilities Newman, Barbara J., Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2001. This how-to manual for teachers of children in church programs offers practical suggestions and short session plans for helping groups of elementary-age children understand and welcome into their group a child with a particular disability.

Special Needs Smart Pages: Advice, Answers, and Articles about Ministering to Children with Special Needs (Joni and Friends) Gospel Light, 2009. Provides churches with a comprehensive resource to help them reach out to individuals with different kinds of special needs, including autism, cognitive brain disorders and physical disabilities. Readers will learn how to recruit and train leaders and teachers for a special needs ministry, how to meet the physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs of disabled children, and how to help these children discover and use their unique gifts to serve the Body of Christ. Includes lessons for specially tailored Bible stories, motivational teacher devotionals, planning information, training articles, tips and mini posters, in addition to inspiring stories of six kids with special needs living for Jesus.

Catechists for all Children White, Joseph D., Ph. D. Our Sunday Visitor, 2002. Catechists for All Children will help you effectively share the Word of God with each child who comes into the classroom. It will help develop the skills and self assurance that teachers and catechists need to create a positive and successful learning environment.

Adaptive First Eucharist Preparation Kit: For Children with Autism and Other Special Needs Loyola Press, 2012.

The Adaptive First Eucharist Kit will enable many children with autism and other special needs to participate fully in their faith, children who might not be able to receive the Eucharist. Kit Includes: Helper Guide, My Picture Missal, Mass Cards (inside Picture Missal), Bless Yourself Board, Who is Jesus Card, Communion is Not the Same as Food Board, How to Receive Communion Board, I Receive Communion Book, and Backpack. [\(Now available in Spanish!\)](#)

Adaptive First Reconciliation Preparation Kit: For Children with Autism and Other Special Needs Loyola Press,

2012. The Adaptive First Reconciliation Kit will enable children with autism and other special needs to participate fully in their faith, children who might not be able to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. Kit Includes: The Reconciliation Flip Book; I'm Sorry Cards; The I Am Forgiven Sequence Puzzle; Jesus Forgives Instructional Story Card; Jesus Wants Us to Make Good Choices Matching Puzzle; The Good Choice/Bad Choice Cards; Examination of Conscience Instructional Card; I Celebrate Reconciliation Picture Book; Act of Contrition Instructional Card; The Helper Guide; Backpack. [\(Now available in Spanish!\)](#)

Adaptive Confirmation Preparation Kit For Individuals with Autism and Other Special Needs Loyola Press, 2014.

The Adaptive Confirmation Preparation Kit was designed to help individuals with autism and other special needs enter fully into the faith experience, prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation, and live their lives as participating members of the Catholic Church. Kit Includes: I Receive Confirmation Book, Request for Confirmation Template, I Do Card, Baptismal Promise Puzzle, I Am a Disciple flip book, Toss and Tell Conversation Starter Ball, Helper Guide, My Confirmation Songs CD, Backpack.

[\(Now available in Spanish!\)](#)



Finding God Adaptive Kit (Grades 1-8) (Mixed Material) Loyola Press, 2014. The foremost program of its kind, offering faith formation for children with special needs, and adaptable to a variety of settings and situations. Can be used in conjunction with the Finding God grade-level books or as a stand-alone program for parishes, schools, and at home.

Spiritually Able: A Parent's Guide to Teaching the Faith to Children with Special Needs Rizzo, David, Loyola Press, 2015. Both memoir and manual, the book is a life-preserver to parents who are seeking ways to grow and nourish a deeper relationship to God and their faith for their child with special needs. Full of tips, advice, and personal accounts, Spiritually Able helps bridge the gap and invites all into the welcoming embrace of the Church.

The Aspie Teen's Survival Guide : Candid Advice for Teens, Tweens, and Parents, from a Young Man with Asperger's Syndrome Kraus, J. D., Future Horizons, 2010. The author, a young man with Asperger's syndrome, offers advice to teens who have been diagnosed with Asperger's on how to negotiate the academic and social challenges of middle and high school.

The Child With Autism Learns the Faith : Bible Lessons from the Garden of Eden to the Parting of the Red Sea Labosh, Kathy, : Future Horizons, 2011. Offers fifteen lesson plans to teach children with autism about creation, Adam and Eve, Noah, Moses, Passover, and other related topics, providing and a companion scripture study for parents and teachers, and featuring lessons appropriate for Jewish and Christian faiths.

Autism Guidebook for Washington State: A Resource for Individuals, Families, and Professionals Governor's Caring for Individuals with Autism Task Force, 2010. Comprehensive guide with information on a variety of issues and resources on caring for an individual with autism spectrum disorder, including: defining autism, medical aspects, components of an instruction program, community transition, future life planning and community autism awareness training.

Developing Talents: Careers for Individuals with Asperger Syndrome and High-Functioning Autism Grandin, Temple (Updated expanded ed.) Autism Asperger Pub., 2008. Examines career opportunities for men and women with Asperger Syndrome and high-functioning autism, providing information on job responsibilities, training requirements, difficulty level, and necessary social and communication skills.

Ten Things Your Student with Autism Wishes You Knew Notbohm, Ellen, Future Horizons, 2006. The unique perspective of a child's voice is back to help us understand the thinking patterns that guide their actions, shape an environment conducive to their learning style, and communicate with them in meaningful ways. This book affirms that autism imposes no inherent upper limits on achievement, that both teacher and child "can do it." It's the game plan every educator, parent, or family member needs to make the most of every "teaching moment" in the life of children.

Rhythms of Grace: Worship and Faith Formation for Children and Families With Special Needs Morehouse Education Resources, 2010. Consists of scripture-based session plans, as well as the background material needed to establish a successful program. The program includes 12 monthly sessions (Sept. to Aug.) and 6 feast sessions, plus background material. Rhythms of Grace is a unique and innovative program resource designed to meet the spiritual needs of children and families living with autism spectrum disorders. Participant families gather monthly with program leaders and volunteers for sessions that are a hybrid of worship and faith formation. Rhythms of Grace helps children and their families feel at the center of a worship/formation experience that is specific to their needs and circumstances, rather than merely at the margins of a more conventionally "inclusive" program of worship or faith formation.

A Place for All: Ministry for Youth with Special Needs Barone, John, Saint Mary's Press, 2008. In the pages of this book you will find the following: Information about many of the neurological differences that affect young people Tips for educating the entire community about these differences Advice on how to reach out to youth with special needs Practical steps to modify your facilities to meet the needs of youth with neurological differences Training tools for empowering volunteers to work with special needs youth A Place for All opens a window into the challenging lives of children with neurological differences, the difficulties faced by the adults who work with them, and the shift in philosophy and methodology required for religious education professionals and volunteers.

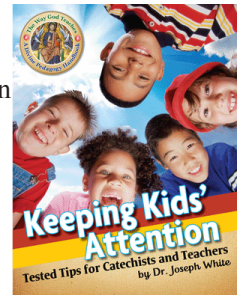
The Special Needs Ministry Handbook: A Church's Guide to Reaching Children with Disabilities and their Families Rapada, Amy, CGR Publishing, 2007. Educationally, spiritually and experience based; a practical instructional guide and inspirational resource written for church leaders, Sunday school teachers, and families with disabilities



Including People with Disabilities in Faith Communities: A Guide for Service Providers, Families, & Congregations

(Book) Carter, Erik W., Paul H. Brookes Pub. Co., 2007. With this guide, congregations will get the realistic how-to strategies they need to become places of welcome and belonging for people with a wide range of disabilities. Gives readers workable strategies for identifying “indicators of welcome,” encouraging community outreach, and gathering important information about the support needs of people with disabilities and their families. Service providers, families, religious leaders, and congregation members will learn how they can collaborate to include people with disabilities in a welcoming, supportive community of faith.

Keeping Kid’s Attention: Tested Tips for Catechists and Teachers White, Joseph, Our Sunday Visitor, 2014. This simple, practical booklet, teaches catechists and teachers how to keeping kids attention - and begin teaching the way God teaches us! Also includes a handy checklist for including children with special needs or ADHD.



Same Lake, Different Boat: Coming Alongside People Touched by Disability Hubach, Stephanie O., P&R Pub., 2006. Examines disabilities from a biblical perspective, discussing ways to transform the church into a welcoming place for people with disabilities and their families, and providing guidelines that can be adapted for any congregation.

Handbook for Adaptive Catechesis: Serving Those with Special Needs Chronister, Michele E., Liguori Publications, 2012. This handbook reflects on the needs of individuals with a wide range of disabilities and calls on catechists and religious education programs to consider special needs students for their mainstream and specialized programs. This comprehensive book covers a variety of the most-encountered special needs, along with approaches for meeting those needs.

The Bible, Disability, and The Church: A New Vision of the People of God Yong, Amos, Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2011.. Discusses how the way Biblical texts are interpreted in regard to people with disabilities. Yong shows how the Bible offers good news to people of all abilities and he challenges churches to become more inclusive communities of faith.

Sacramental Preparation: Reconciliation: Individualizing Lesson Plans Carter, Mary Pat, Center for Ministry with People with Disabilities, University of Dayton, 1996. These booklets give teachers strategies to be used to teach students with mental disability in the regular religious education classroom. Using learning style theory and real-life experience, the authors show teachers how to adapt a lesson plan to suit the needs of the individual student. Books on Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation also available.

Exceptional Teaching: A Comprehensive Guide for Including Students with Disabilities Pierson, Jim, Standard Pub., 2002. Is there a child with a learning disability who wants to be part of your Sunday school class or youth group? Exceptional Teaching will relieve your misgivings and allow every child to participate. He explains the characteristics of 77 special needs diagnoses, and identifies challenges, appropriate teaching and discipline methods, and realistic expectations. Includes wonderful true stories of exceptional lives.

DVD & Electronic Resources

Including Children with Special Needs in Faith Formation: A Guide for Catechetical Leaders (PDF) Outlines clearly the ways in which children with special needs can be included in faith formation programs. It discusses various challenges with which catechetical leaders should be familiar and includes a sample registration form for children with special needs.

Strengthened in Faith: Confirmation (DVD) Landover Hills, MD : National Catholic Office for the Deaf. Inspire and engage parishioners preparing for Confirmation with this comprehensive study program from the National Catholic Office for the Deaf and Our Sunday Visitor. The 12 video lessons in this 3-DVD set bring the Sacrament of Confirmation to life, as Mary, St. Peter, and the saints walk through the Sacrament and show them how to put their faith into action. Designed for the deaf or hard of hearing, and appropriate for teens or adults. This program can also be used for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. This course can also help hearing individuals who benefit from a more visual style of learning. In Sign Language. Spoken and captioned in English.

Welcoming Our Differences (DVD) Daybreak Productions/Diocese of Buffalo, 2013. A video that creates disability awareness in churches. This video fosters the understanding of the abilities of each person and welcome all people to participate in the Church community. DVD can be checked out from the library or accessed here: [Welcoming Our Differences-link](#)

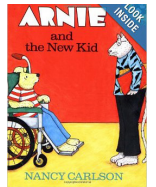
Behind the Glass Door- Hannah’s Story (DVD) Gateway Films, 2001. One family’s struggle with the mysterious and debilitating disorder of autism and the heartwarming account of a mother determined to break through the glass door that separates their two worlds.



Children's Storybooks

Douglas, The Boy Who Knew God McCarthy, Patricia, 2005. Douglas was born unable to move his arms and legs, and he lived in a large hospital. The people at the hospital loved Douglas and took care of him. Maria comes to the hospital on Sundays to teach the children about God and prayer. One day Douglas has the chance to teach Maria about prayer. As children listen to the story, they think about what they can thank God for.

Arnie and the New Kid Carlson, Nancy L., Picture Puffins, 1990. This is a story about Arnie and Philip. Philip is new at school and uses a wheelchair. Arnie teases him. Things change one day when Arnie needs help and Philip reaches out to him. As children listen to the story, they think about what it's like to be Philip and how they might behave differently if they were Arnie.

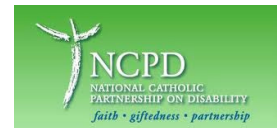


Don't Call Me Special: A First Look at Disability Thomas, Pat, Barron's, 2002. This delightful picture book explores questions and concerns about physical disabilities in a simple and reassuring way. Younger children can find out about individual disabilities, special equipment that is available to help the disabled, and how people of all ages can deal with disabilities and live happy and full lives.

National Catholic Partnership on Disability Webinars

All webinars are approximately an hour in length and each webinar comes with a Resource CD that contains a variety of resources useful to the topic discussed: handouts, guidelines, helpful links, etc.

- *Catechesis & Disability
- *Prenatal Diagnosis
- *Parish Support for Veterans
- *Bishops' Pastoral Statement on Disabilities at 30: Bright Past, Bold Future
- *Catholic Education for Students with Disabilities-Part I: Elementary Schools/Part II: High Schools
- *Symbolic Catechesis and Other Tools in Catechetical Ministry for People with Disabilities
- *Threats to the Lives of People with Disabilities: Part II-Physician Assisted Suicide
- *Access to Liturgical Spaces: Welcoming All to this Place/Access in Liturgy: Making Liturgical ministries more Accessible to People with Disabilities
- *Mental Illness I: Supporting People with Mental Illness in your Parish/Come to the Table: Nurturing the Sacramental Life of People with Mental Illness
- *Mental Illness Volume II: Access to Tools in Addressing Suicide: Pastoral Supports and Prevention
- *Strategies: Mental Illness in Youth and Young Adults



Helpful Links & Resources

Archdiocese of Chicago (SPRED Program)

Department of Human Services: Office for Persons with Disabilities

<http://www.spred.org/>

Archdiocese of Newark

Pastoral Ministry with Persons With Disabilities

Catholic Diocese of Toledo

Equal Access Ministries

Archdiocese of Seattle

Special Needs Ministry



[National Organization on Disability Website](#)

[National Catholic Partnership on Disability Website](#)

[National Catholic Office for the Deaf](#)

[National Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry](#)