

**CHM Leadership Certification
Level III, Course #7**

**How to Include Kids with Special Needs
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(Handouts)**

Tips to Include Kids

- Provide a warm and welcoming environment in church & school programs for children with special needs.
- It is a wonderful way to show that every child can receive God's promises and serve in God's kingdom.
- Seek advice and help of the child's family.

More Tips . . .

- Acceptance of the child with special needs helps the child to be accepted by a group.
- Get to know the child as a unique person.
- Use age-appropriate language and activities.
- Don't do anything with the group that one child has no chance to do successfully.

Other Tips . . .

- Respect child's need to develop independence; be patient and praise child's best effort.
- Talk to the whole group about how everyone can be loving and kind to the person with special needs.
- Keep communication open and honest between you and the child's family.

Learning Disabilities

- Avoid putting an individual child in the spotlight.
- Pair up children to help each other on task's that may prove difficult to one of them alone.
- Allow plenty of time for a child with learning disabilities to respond to a question, and provide visual prompts.

Learning Disabilities

- Repeat directions or write them on a chalkboard.
- Break tasks into smaller steps for older children.
- Offer a choice of activities.
- Provide help with tasks that require eye-hand coordination for younger children.
- Introduce key points and repeat them at summary time.

Attention Disorders

- Children with attention disorders may be hyperactive, easily distracted, or impulsive.
- Things that benefit a child that has attention disorder are smaller classes, quieter classrooms, routines, limited distractions, peer helpers.
- Establish regular patterns and routines.

Attention Disorders

- Keep instructions and rules simple but remain firm about expectations.
- Maintain eye contact with hyperactive children.
- Keep a attitude positive to help other kids accept hyperactive child too.

Mental Impairments

- Mental impairments cause delays in most areas of development that includes development of intellectual and social skills.
- Repetition of songs, memory work and key points in stories will help the child learn and become part of the group.
- Learn some of the basic signing language the child may also be learning.

Mental Impairments

- A child may benefit from a program that is designed especially for children with mental impairments.
- There are websites such as Faith Alive Christian Resources that have information and sample curriculum materials.

www.faithaliveresources.org.

Physical Disabilities

- A variety of conditions and diseases usually present at birth or as a result of injury.
- It's important to work with the family to understand specific needs.
- Provide a safe physical environment and encouragement for the child to be independent.

Handling Physical Disabilities

- Older children may be self-conscious about talking or asking questions about a physical disability
- Help them to be comfortable enough to break down barriers.
- Encourage the child with a disability to become the expert by helping others understand.
- Each child can experience God's unconditional love through your faith in action.

Helping Kids Include Kids with Disabilities

is a how-to manual for teachers of children offering tips and short plan sessions for helping groups of children understand and welcome a child with a disability