



School of KidsMin Worksheet

Caring for Children with Different Abilities

Practical guidelines to help you support children requiring special assistance for physical or developmental disabilities, learning delays, autism, or behaviour challenges.

The best way to help a child and care for their individual needs is to _____ and ask them!

Caring for children with Physical Disabilities:



- If a child is using special equipment (crutches, wheelchair, cane or ankle foot orthosis), think of it as an _____.
 - o Always _____ before touching it or moving it.
 - o If they're using a wheelchair and they want help, make sure to go _____ and be careful.
- If you're speaking to them, make sure you're at _____ with them and are positioned _____ of them.
- When positioning someone with a wheelchair, be aware of their _____.
 - o Make sure they're able to be included and not facing _____ or _____ from the group.
 - o Be aware of _____ and know how you're going to get them out if you need to.

Caring for Children with Vision Loss

- If a child is using a cane or has a guide dog, it doesn't necessarily mean they have _____ loss
- Lead them by having them hold onto your _____ (not by the _____ or _____) so they can let go and have control if they need to.
- Give _____ and _____ instructions as you lead them
 - o "In about 5 steps we're going to turn left"
- Consider _____ and _____



Caring for Children with Hearing Loss

- Many children with hearing loss can _____ well.
 - o Speaking _____ and making sure they can see your _____ moving is important.
 - o Raising your voice is not usually helpful.
- Speak to kids in a _____ rather than a line so everyone can see you and read lips if necessary
- _____ cues are important. Mix them with auditory cues.

Caring for Children with Developmental Disabilities

- Don't make assumptions about cognition or communication. Address each child at their _____ level as a rule of thumb.
- If a child has a support worker and you're communicating with the child about their needs, make sure you address the child _____ even if the support worker has to answer some questions and speak up for them.
- It can be helpful to be paired with a one on one buddy.
 - o Someone their age, a friend or a young volunteer.
 - o Make sure roles are clearly _____.
 - e.g. if the child needs help in the bathroom, this person is the only one who will help them.



Caring for Children with Intellectual Delays

- Deals with how children take in or _____ information.
- Give instructions in a _____ of ways.
- In small group or Bible learning time, never force a child to _____.

Caring for Children with Autism

- "Once you know one child with autism, you know _____."
- Beware of specific causes of _____ overload (light, sound, tactile)
- They don't have the same idea of _____ since they may not be able to read social cues.
- Many have specific areas of strength. _____ their gifts and abilities!
- Can have repetitive behaviours to help them cope. It's important to decipher between what is _____ and what is just repetitive.
- Have an _____ kit available so if they're having a hard time, they can have quiet unstructured time to regulate themselves.
- They can have a hard time switching from activity to activity. Have lots of _____ for upcoming shifts (countdowns).

Caring for Children with Attention Deficit Disorder and Challenging Behaviors

- They have trouble _____ and figuring out what's not important and get in the way of what they themselves enjoy!
- _____ the good behaviour to encourage them!
- Be clear about what the _____ and _____ are.
 - o If discipline is necessary, do it _____ and _____. Don't let _____ hang over them throughout the day by taking away a snack in the afternoon if they weren't cooperating in the morning.
- Use a visual schedule with only a few items at a time.



What's most important is _____ as we prepare before, during and after. God will help us to _____ these kids the way they need to be _____.

Remember: An important key is to _____ with the parents and the children themselves.

What do you need to do in your ministry to take better care of children of all abilities?