

INCLUSION AND ACCESS

Parish Religious Education Programs

Department for Pastoral Care for Persons with Disabilities and the Deaf Apostolate
215-587-3530; 215-587-0510 (tty); PCPDDEAF@adphila.org
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Resources available for lending:

Seasons of Grace: O'Donnell Book and participants' manual for Sacramental preparation for teens and adults with mental retardation. Cardinal Stritch Bookstore, 6801 North Yates Rd., Milwaukee, WI; (414) 410-4035.

Kennedy Curriculum: The Rose Kennedy Program to improve Catholic Religious Education for children and adults with mental retardation (800)552-2259; www.sbgreligion.com
STAARS: Symbols Teach and Reveal Sacred in Secular; a creative symbol workbook
Grace Harding, Dept. for Persons with Disabilities, Diocese of Pittsburgh, 135 First Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15222; disabilities@diopitt.org

Friendship Ministries: *Learning the Lord's Prayer; Helping Kids Include Kids with Disabilities; Time with God.* 1-800-333-8300 or www.friendship.org

Welcome One, Welcome All Resource Binder: Practical, applicable materials from dioceses throughout the U.S. on how to make inclusion a part of your religious education programs. Topics include: Theology, Behavior Management, Administration and Lesson Preparation.

Sacramental Preparation Confirmation; Individualizing Lesson Plans, Mary Pat Carter with Marilyn E. Bishop.

Resources for Christian Educators: Collected by the Committee on Disabilities of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, 2002; Directory of Resources for the Blind and Visually Impaired; June 2002.

Special Religious Education; Pathways to Welcome and Inclusion: Special Religious Education Articles by Grace T. Harding, M.A., M.S.Ed., Director Department for Persons with Disabilities, Diocese of Pittsburgh 135 First Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

Catechesis for Persons with Disabilities: A Blueprint for Action: NCDD. 1982; Discusses aspects of initiating parish/diocesan religious education program for persons with disabilities.

Helping Kids Include Kids with Disabilities, Barbara J. Newman, equips teachers, church activity leaders, and kids with the information they need to practice inclusive education in community. The book includes information for understanding children with special needs, guidelines for churches, information about specific and general areas of impairment, lesson plans, letters to families, devotions for families.

Good Answers to Tough Questions About Physical Disabilities: (children's book) Joy Berry.

Inclusion Strategies for Students with Learning and Behavior Problems; Perspectives, Experiences, and Best Practices; edited by Paul Zionts, 1997.

Curriculum Considerations in Inclusive Classrooms; Facilitating Learning for All Students: Stainback & Stainback, 1992.

Disability Solutions, March/April 2003 Volume 5, Issue 4: Using Visual Tools to Support Student Learning.

Visual Strategies; PA Training and Technical Assistance Network, PA Dept. of Ed. Booklet designed for parents and teachers who may be living and working with children having difficulty comprehending verbal messages.

Video Resources available for lending:

Teaching Religion to Students with Mental Retardation: Part of the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Program to Improve Catholic Religious Education for Children and Adults with Mental Retardation. Robert Weaver, Ph.D. Produced by: Center for Ministry with People with Disabilities, University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio 45469. Time: 22:27.

Sacraments and People with Mental Retardation: Part of the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Program to Improve Catholic Religious Education for Children and Adults with Mental Retardation. The Rev. Robert Hater, Ph.D. Produced by: Center for Ministry with People with Disabilities. University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio 45469. Time: 27:08.

Creative Management of Classroom Behavior: Presented by Margaret Frey, M.Ed. Produced by Network of Inclusive Catholic Educators and Institute for Pastoral Initiatives, University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio 45469. Time: 44:26.

The Inclusive Classroom: by Marsha Forest, Ed.D., Produced by: Center for Ministry with People with Disabilities. University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio 45469. Producer: Marilyn E. Bishop. Time: 45:20.

Scripture Based Inclusion: by Fr. Ronald Nuzzi. Produced by Center for Ministry with People with Disabilities. University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio 45469. Producer: Marilyn E. Bishop. Time: 36:51.

Welcome One, Welcome All-Teaching the Gospel Around Children with Differences. Produced by Center for Ministry with People with Disabilities. University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio 45469. Time: 35:00.

There are other resources available. For complete listing, please contact the Department for Pastoral Care for Persons with Disabilities @ 215-587-3530 (voice), 215-587-0510 (tty), PCPDDEAF@adphila.org

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Request for Volunteers

_____ welcomes children of all abilities into the religious education setting. To meet the varied needs of each child, classroom aides are needed to assist and support both students and catechists in providing faith formation for all our young people. Anyone with a professional backgrounds, personal experience or a desire to assist in programming for children with disabilities are also needed. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering their time, expertise and service to the needs of the Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) please call_____.

Sentence that can be included with registration announcement:

Our Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) provides classes for children of all abilities. Children with cognitive, sensory, physical or social disabilities are welcome and encouraged to attend weekly (PREP) classes.



P.R.E.P. REGISTRATION FORM SUGGESTIONS

Gathering information to promote optimal inclusion:

Please let us know how the PREP program staff and volunteers can support and make your child's PREP experience more successful.

Does your child have any conditions, disorders, allergies, physical, sensory, cognitive, or social/emotional disabilities of which we should be aware so we can respond more appropriately?

Describe your child's special education programming or community-based services?

Is there other information that would help us in planning for your child's religious education?

*Are there signs the catechist should recognize that indicate that your child is becoming unhappy, overstimulated, agitated, or emotionally upset?

*What types of events might trigger these behaviors?

*What are some ways in which the catechist might help your child when these behaviors occur?

**Taken and adapted from Diocese of Orange, Department for Special Religious Education*

INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN CATECHETICAL PROGRAMS:

A CHURCH PERSPECTIVE

Catechesis, according to the General Directory of Catechesis (GDC#29), is one of the most important ecclesial activities. The catechetical program must reflect the broader meaning of the mission of the Church. The Catechism of the Catholic Church points out that the definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion with Jesus Christ (CCC 426). In accord with canon 777(# 4) and the GDC (#167) all the baptized, because they are called by God to maturity of faith, need and have therefor the right to adequate catechesis. It is then the responsibility of the Church community to respond to this in a fitting and satisfactory manner. This vision prompted the United States Catholic Bishops in their 1978 *Pastoral Statement on People with Disabilities* and their 1995 *Guidelines for Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities* to state that catechetical and sacramental programs need to be inclusive of parishioners with disabilities and catechetical formation programs may need to be adapted for some parishioners with disabilities.

Keeping in mind that all the baptized have a right to catechesis and that every person, however limited, is capable of growth in holiness (GDC #189). It is incumbent on those responsible for the catechetical program to invite, welcome and provide for those with physical, sensory, mental and behavioral disabilities. Present documents of the Church encourage that as far as possible persons with disabilities should be integrated with the ordinary. catechetical activities of the parish. It is the responsibility of the parish community to accommodate for individuals with disabilities by providing generous, competent and realistic programing, seeking dialogue with families, and proposing appropriate forms of education proportionate to the concrete possibilities and needs of the individuals. For individuals with disabilities meaningful and appropriate integration will necessitate different forms of accommodation and varying forms of programing from full inclusion in the parish religious education classroom, to smaller group or individualized instruction. In order to provide this full inclusion Directors of Religious Education, coordinators and catechists need to seek out and utilize the resources of families, parishioners and diocesan personal to support a program that can be accessible and meet the needs of individuals with disabilities.

The Department for Pastoral Care for Persons with Disabilities and the Deaf Apostolate

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