

Planning Worksheet: Take Inventory

Toolbox II: Working with Students with Special Needs – Part I

There are many things we can do, adjust, and add to make our ministry a welcoming place for children with disabilities. Knowing what to do first can be overwhelming. Before making any changes, take inventory.

1. Take Inventory of Your Current Needs

What disabilities are present in your church family at this moment?

- Physical Disabilities (Examples: muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, some forms of arthritis, vision impairment, hearing impairment, etc.)
- Intellectual Disabilities (Examples: Down syndrome, fetal alcohol syndrome, genetic conditions, birth defects, etc.)
- Hidden Disabilities (Examples: Autism, ADHD, emotional/behavioral)

2. Take Inventory of Your Current Resources

Is there anyone in your congregation who is uniquely qualified or passionate about ministering to people with disabilities?

- Are there any special education teachers or parents of children with special needs who may be willing to get involved?
- Is there someone in your congregation who knows sign language?
- Is there someone who is skilled in carpentry or construction who might be able to help you add physical accommodations (such as ramps or railings) to your ministry space?
- Are there any teens or young adults who may be called to serve with this group of people?
- Is there someone with a medical background, such as a doctor, nurse, or therapist, who has experience working with kids?
- Are there any nurses, CNAs, or other caregivers who care for children with special needs?