

BUILDING A SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

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It's estimated that nearly 90% of special needs families do not attend church. If your church should accept the mission to minister to special needs families, it will be a continuous labor of love. Having a special needs ministry not only benefits parents and the children, but also the leaders who have the opportunity to love on them and teach them about Jesus. We will discuss important building blocks needed whether you are just beginning or already in the trenches. You will walk away with tools to help you create a warm and loving environment for families that struggle to find a welcoming church.

What is the big picture and who benefits?

- Short video of parents, children, adults, and leaders sharing about what it has meant to them to be at a church that has a special needs ministry.

Creating a Mission & Vision for Your Church and Special Needs Ministry

- Sunday Mornings – setting up buddy room(s) or providing in-class support for those that are able to be in a general classroom
- Parent Support Groups – discussion/speaker topic suggestions
- Respite – allows for parents to have a much needed break once a month for a few hours

Tools for Success

- Getting leadership on board with a special needs ministry
- Recruiting and training volunteers on policies and procedures
- Creating a profile for each child/adult so we are equipped with pertinent information
- Creating welcoming rooms with necessary tools for equipping students and volunteers
- Creating schedules for each child to have a visual of upcoming activities
- Setting up in-class support with buddy or sensory boxes to help class flow smoothly
- Partnering with parents – communication is a key component

Resources

Key Ministry promotes a meaningful community between church and families of kids with disabilities for the purpose of making disciples of Jesus Christ. www.keyministry.org

Joni and Friends feature “Start with Hello” ministry tools for any church new to the special needs area www.irresistiblechurch.org

Focus on the Family

www.focusonthefamily.com/episodes/broadcast/seeing-the-value-of-every-person/