

Inclusion and Access

Resources for Religious Education Programs

Diocese of St. Augustine (updated August 2021)

"It is the task of the local Churches to be open to the reception and ordinary presence of persons with disabilities within programs of catechesis..."

Directory for Catechesis (2020) # 271

Catechetical Resources

(* indicates a resource available to lend in the Office of Christian Formation)

Institute for Pastoral Initiatives (formerly NICE) University of Dayton, Dayton, OH 45469-0314 1-937-229-4325

Call toll-free: 1-888-532-3389

https://udayton.edu/artssciences/ctr/ipi/inclusive_catechesis_resources/contact.php

Materials for purchase

◆ *Sacraments: Gifts for All* * These booklets are available for Baptism, Penance, Confirmation and First Eucharist. These booklets give catechists strategies to be used to teach students with mental disability in the regular religious education classroom. Using learning style theory and real life experiences, the authors show catechists how to adapt a lesson plan to suit the needs of individual students. The strength of this resource is its ability to meet the needs of all students in an inclusive classroom. *

◆ *Welcome One, Welcome All* Resource Binder * This binder contains practical and readily applicable ideas and strategies compiled from dioceses in the United States on how to make religious education/youth programs more welcoming and inclusive. Topics include: Theology, Behavior Management, Administration and Lesson Planning. *

◆ *All About Mass: Student Edition* * Booklet utilizes limited vocabulary and simple images to explain the Mass in a way that both young children and adults with developmental disabilities can understand.

These resources are also available in Spanish

Additional Print Materials available for purchase in Spanish and English:
The Apostles Creed What Catholics believe about the Church and their faith.

The Beatitudes Timeless teachings of Jesus that draw us closer to God's Kingdom. Each Beatitude is told in simple language with numerous illustrations.

Bible Stories A collection of twenty-two stories from the Old and New Testaments. Uses minimum words and an abundance of pictures to tell these wonderful stories.

Blessings Signs and symbols help us understand and experience God's blessings, and we in turn share those blessings when we do God's work.

Who is Mary? Mary said yes to God and became the Mother of Jesus. Among the stories, this book tells of the Annunciation, the Wedding at Cana, Jesus' death and resurrection and Mary's Assumption into Heaven.

New Life From baptism, Eucharist, confirmation to resurrection and new life, God's love is always with us.

Prayer God listens when we talk to Him. This book explains prayer and includes the Our Father, the Eucharistic prayer, and three simple prayers to use throughout the day.

The Rosary The Rosary helps us remember special events in the lives of Jesus and Mary. This book covers the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious mysteries and reminds us that Mary asks us to pray the Rosary.

The Sacraments This book covers the seven sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Sacrament of the Sick, Marriage and Holy Orders.

The Saints Ten saints are featured, including St. Joseph, St. Patrick, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Therese, and St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

DVDs

Fifteen [DVDs](#) are available on topics related to ministry and inclusion in the church and school. The cost of each video is \$35, which includes shipping and handling.

ADD/ADHD: Memorizing Made Easy * Dave Brauckman shows how to use visuals, music and stories to teach students with Attention Deficit Disorder or Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (35 min.)

Baptism -- A Promise to Disabled People Examination of the sacramental life of the disabled person in light of church responsibility (16 min.)

Biblical Perspectives on Community Using Biblical references, Rev. Donald Senior, C.P., refers to the deepest truths of how we are to be with each other, and offers insights on the challenges of building inclusive communities.

Building the School Team, Fr. Patrick Mackan, CR offers techniques for motivating teacher acceptance of the disabled student. (40 min.)

Circle of Friends Marsha Forest and Jack Pearpoint tell the story and the procedure for creating a circle of friends. (Two parts on one tape: Part 1-24 min., Part 2-30 min.)

Creative Management of Classroom Behavior Practical DVD for anyone who deals with children in any setting; emphasis on avoiding misbehavior through specific methods. (45 min.)

Disability Dollars* Dr. Maureen Dowling, US Department of Education, discusses accessing federal funds for private school students with disabilities and explains IDEA, FAPE, Child Find, Provision of Services, 504 Plans, IEP's, ISP's and the distinction between federal and state monies and responsibilities. (25 min.)

Improving Achievement* An in depth look at educational barriers and solutions for the learning disabled student. Dr. Tom Diebold speaks to the issues of what can be done for students who are unable to learn through traditional teaching approaches. (23 min.)

The Inclusive Catholic Community The vision of a community that includes all people, based on the Gospel message presented by the late Fr. Patrick Mackan, CR (45 min.)

The Inclusive Classroom, Marsha Forest describes the 'elegant simplicity' of education for all children, especially those disabled. (45 min.)

Recognize-Respond to Learning Disabilities in the Catholic School* Sr. Kathleen Marie Ramirez, OP discusses causes and classroom characteristics of learning disabilities, practical accommodations, grading and evaluation. (41 min.)

Scripture Based Inclusion Bold presentation by Fr. Ronald Nuzzi about the Gospel imperative to include all people in school, church and life (35 min.)

Welcome One, Welcome All * Demonstrates the process for teaching the Gospel around children with differences. Focus: real-life religious education (35 min.)

Kennedy Curriculum

(the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Program to Improve Catholic Religious Education for Children and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities)

Originally published by Silver Burdett Ginn, now available through www.rclbenziger.com. The curriculum is listed in their catalog, but it is currently not on their website. 877-2754725. This program is a collection of 220 lesson plans, and it is written for students ages 5-18 who have mild or moderate cognitive disability. The lessons are quite detailed. Other components of the program are prayer services and activities for the liturgical year.

The lesson plans were developed so that they might be used for pull out time for students who are not able to stay in the regular classroom. This curriculum was first implemented in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. It is also suitable for families who home school. * Now available in Spanish and English.

St. Mary's Curriculum for Students with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities

This curriculum was developed in the Archdiocese of Boston as an adaptation to the Rose Kennedy Curriculum to better serve children with autism. This curriculum is visually based and for those students with limited language skills. The program contains lessons for sacramental preparation, parts of the Mass and how to participate at Mass as well as lessons that connect to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. This curriculum is available through an online subscription at <http://www.autismreligiouseducation.net/> There are samples available for viewing before purchasing.

Journey with Jesus

A series of curriculum guides that assist catechists in preparing people with cognitive disabilities to receive the sacraments beyond Baptism. This was originally used at St. Coletta's School in Jefferson, Wisconsin, where Rose Kennedy was a student. The following are available through the Cardinal Stritch University Bookstore:

◆ *Journey with Jesus: Call to Love* by Sr. M. Sheila Haskett, O.S.F. Suggestions for Religious Education for Persons Categorized as Having Profound Cognitive Disability. Topics covered: Call to Be, Call to Respond, Call to be Loving.

◆ *Call to Communion: Call to Reconciliation. Call to Service (Confirmation)* Each of these has a picture book for the student. These booklets and lessons are for those with mild to moderate cognitive disability. These are printed by Cardinal Stritch University.

◆ *Seasons of Grace* Bridget O'Donnell Book and student book for sacramental preparation for students with mild to moderate cognitive disability.

◆ *Journey with Jesus Gospel Study: A Curriculum Guide for Adult Special Religious Education* by Sr. M. Sheila Haskett, O.S.F., Ph.D. and Sr. M. Coletta Dunn, O.S.F., Ph.D.

These materials are available through the Cardinal Stritch University Bookstore:

<http://www.csu.bkstr.com/> or (414)410-4035. I would call as their website is not user friendly.

Resources

General

A Place for All, Ministry for Youth with Special Needs

Through the Monarch School and John E. Barone of St. Mary's Press (www.smp.org) Provides information about many of the neurological differences that affect young people, tips for educating the entire community about these differences, advice on how to reach out to youth with special needs, practical steps to modify parishes to meet these needs and training that empowers catechists to work with special needs youth.

Catechist for All Children*

An eight-page colorful and practical flyer from Our Sunday Visitor and authored by Dr. Joseph White, it offers practical insights into creating a positive and successful learning environment for all children. Provides methods that accommodate unique emotional and behavioral needs in the classroom. www.osv.com

Resources for Working Children/Youth with Autism

Autism and Faith: A Journey Into Community. A resource booklet for faith communities on including people and families living with autism. It is a collaborative product of the Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and COSAC (the New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community). It is generously funded by a grant from the Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation.

Buron, Kari Dunn. *When My Autism Gets Too Big! A Relaxation Book for Children with Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.* Shawnee Mission, KS: Autism Asperger Publishing Co., 2003 www.asperger.net

Kluth, Laura. "You're Going to Love This Kid!" *Teaching Students with Autism in the Inclusive Classroom.* Baltimore, London, Sydney: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co. 2003

Labosh, Kathy. *The Child with Autism Learns the Faith* Labosh Publishing, now available through Amazon:

Bible Stories:

<https://amzn.to/3CfbIxX>

Trip to Florida (helpful to parents)

<https://amzn.to/3yoQ88b>

At Home and in the Community (helpful for parents)

<https://amzn.to/3fva7KI>

Lowell, Jamie and Tara C. Tuchel. *My Best Friend Will*. Shawnee Mission, KS: Autism Asperger Publishing Co., 2005. www.asperger.net Jamie is a fifth grader who has been friends with Will since kindergarten. She describes what life is like for and with Will, who has autism.

Maurice, Catherine, ed. Gina Green and Stephen C. Luce, Co-Editors *Behavioral Intervention for Young Children with Autism: A Manual for Parents and Professionals*. Austin, TX Pro-Ed, 1996

Sabin, Ellen. *The Autism Acceptance Book: Being a Friend to Someone with Autism*. Watering Can Press, 2006 This is an activity book that provides downloadable lesson plans that can be used to engage children in grades K – 8 in learning to embrace people's differences and treat others with respect, compassion and kindness.

Schreibman, Laura. *The Science and Fiction of Autism*. Cambridge, MA and London, England: Harvard University Press 2005

Resources for Working with Deaf Persons

American Sign Language Resources:

Signs For Catholic Liturgy and Education available from the National Catholic Office for the Deaf www.ncod.org Site also has YouCat in American Sign as well as a resource for first Communion preparation

Community of hearing and deaf men dedicated to Ministry of the Deaf
www.dominicanmissionaries.org

International Catholic Deaf Association website www.icda-us.org

Religious signs for families, an app that helps families to know the basic signs for religious terms. Available in Spanish as well. <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/religious-signs-for-families/id1277587586?ls=1>

Resources for Working with People who are Blind

Braille Transcription Services and Library Xavier Society for the Blind (800)637-9193. The Xavier Society has an extensive library of books plus the Propers of the mass in Braille and large print. www.xaviersociety.com

My First Eucharist This video and teacher's guide created by NCOD provides a signed and closed-captioned sacrament preparation to assist in preparing deaf children to receive their First Eucharist. This is published by RCLBenziger.

Children's Books

Borchard, Therese Johnson. *Taste and See, the Goodness of the Lord* New York/Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2000

Caudrat, Marie Agnes. *What is God Like?* Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press. There are several books in this series...*The Presence of God, The Love of God...*

Nelson, Gertrud Mueller. *A Walk Through Our Church.* New York/Mahwah, NJ Paulist Press 1998

Nolan, Allia, Tracey Moroney, illus. *The Story of Creation with Catholic Scripture.* Melville, NY: Regina Press 2002. Also: *Noah's Ark, The Easter Story, The First Christmas*

Sasso, Sandy Eisenberg. *What is God's Name?* Woodstock, VT: Skylight Paths Publishing, 1999 www.skylightpaths.com

Stuve-Bodeen, Stephanie. *We'll Paint the Octopus Red* Emma's new baby brother Isaac has Down Syndrome

Catholic/Christian Catechetical Resources

Deyer Bolduc, Kathleen. *A Place Called Acceptance: Ministry with Families of Children with Disabilities*

Groome, Thomas. *Sharing Faith: A Comprehensive Approach to Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry.* Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 1998

NcNay, Athelene. *A Guide for Special Education Bible Teaching-Reaching Ministry.* Nashville, TN: Convention Press, 1997

Newman, Barbara J. *Helping Kids Include Kids with Disabilities.* Grand Rapids, MI: Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2001

Pierson, Jim. *Exceptional Teaching: A Comprehensive Guide for Including Students with Disabilities,* Cincinnati, OH: Standard Publishing, 2002

Resources for Working with Children, Youth and Adults with ADHD/ADD

Dendy, Chris A. *Teenagers with ADD and ADHD: A Guide for Parents and Professionals* www.chrisdendy.com

Dendy, Chris A and Alex Ziegler. *A Bird's Eye View of Life with ADD and ADHD: Advice from Young Survivors,* www.chrisdendy.com

Gehret, Jeanne. *Eagle Eyes: A Child's Guide to Paying Attention* Fairport, NY: Verbal Images Press, 1995

Hallowell, Edward M. and John J. Ratey. *Driven to Distraction: Recognizing and Coping with Attention Deficit Disorder from Childhood Through Adulthood*. New York: Touchstone 1995

Lougy, Richard A. Silvia L. DeRuvo and David Rosenthal. *Teaching Young Children with ADHD* Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, 2007

Phelan, Thomas W. *All About Attention Deficit Disorder*. Glen Ellyn, IL: Child Management Inc., 1995

Rief, Sandra F. *How to Reach and Teach Children with ADD/ADHD: Practical Techniques, Strategies and Interventions* www.sandrarium.com

Documents

Benton, Janice La Londe and Mary Jane Owen, ed. *Opening Doors to People with Disabilities: The Resource File, Books A & B*. Washington, DC: National Catholic Office for Persons with Disabilities, 1997 www.ncpd.org (202) 520-2933

USCCB Documents

◆ Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on Persons with Disabilities, 1978, rev. 1989, “Pastoral Statement”

◆ Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities, 2017 <https://www.usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/policies/guidelines-sacraments-persons-with-disabilities>

◆ Welcome and Justice for Persons with Disabilities: A Statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1998 “Welcome and Justice”

◆ Directory for Catechesis, USCCB 2020

Website Resources

NCPD National Catholic Partnership on disability www.ncpd.org

NCPD National Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry www.ncpd.org

NCOD The National Catholic Office for the Deaf www.ncod.org

NICHCY National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities has closed down, but is providing materials for parents in Spanish and English at: <http://www.parentcenterhub.org/resources>.

International Catholic Deaf Association ---the United States Branch <http://icda-us.org>

CUSA, An Apostolate for Persons with Chronic Illness and Disabilities <http://www.cusan.org>

Inclusion in Worship, <http://pathways.org/inclusion/worship/#.U1rQhqIzKSo>

Xavier Society for the Blind <http://www.xaviersociety.com>

Victorious Missionaries provide spiritual support for people with disabilities and their families.
<http://www.vmusa.org>

Resources on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

- ◆ The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities
<http://rwjms.umdj.edu/boggscenter/>
- ◆ American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities www.aaidd.org
- ◆ Autism Society of America www.autism-society.org
- ◆ United Cerebral Palsy www.ucp.org
- ◆ The National Association for Down Syndrome www.nads.org
- ◆ National Tourette Syndrome Association <https://tourette.org/>

Resources on ADD/HD and Learning Disabilities

- ◆ Children and Adults with ADD/HD www.chadd.org
- ◆ Website on learning disabilities, including ADHD www.ldonline.org
- ◆ Parent's Guide and resource www.greatschools.net The Parent's Guide to K – 12 Success
- ◆ Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights. The Pacer Center. Frequently asked questions and information for parents: <http://www.pacer.org>

Clergy and Catechetical Leaders

Suggestions for Conversations with Parents of Children with Disabilities Learning or Developmental

- ◆ Present an overall attitude of openness and a desire to be supportive
- ◆ Ask the parent(s) what they are hoping for:

Specifically, are they hoping for inclusion in a “mainstream” religious education group with the peers of their child? Present all options: inclusion with appropriate supports, within a group of children with special needs, one on one religious education or some combination. You might want to use the triangle diagram from NCPD.
- ◆ What are the child’s special interests?
- ◆ Let the parent(s) know that certain information that they provide would be helpful in making the child’s experience positive:

How would they describe their child’s social relationships?

What methods of communication seem to work best?

Are there any inappropriate behaviors?

What are possible triggers of inappropriate behavior?

What is helpful in holding your child’s attention?

Are you willing to share a copy of his/her IEP or at least what the requirements of it are? (IEP is Individualized Education Plan and public schools are required to have one on every special needs child/youth)

It is important to recognize and respect the confidential nature of an IEP.

Again, remind them that it is for the quality of the child’s religious education is the reason for the request.

Does their child have any diet or environmental issues?

Does their child have any medical issues you need to be aware of?
- ◆ As you would do with any new family, it is good to get a sense of what role faith plays in their life. Remember, also, though, if they have not been able to worship regularly, it may be due to not feeling welcome or de-energized from dealing with disability.

