

# Catechetical Resources for Children and Youth with Disabilities

## UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS (USCCB) [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

- ▲ *Pastoral Statement of United States Catholic Bishops on Persons with Disabilities (1978/1989)*: A landmark document that set forth the vision for ministry with persons with disabilities in our country. <https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/upload/Pastoral-Statement-of-U-S-Catholic-Bishops-on-Persons-with-Disabilities.pdf>
- ▲ *Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities (1995)*. <https://www.usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/policies/guidelines-sacraments-persons-with-disabilities>
- ▲ *Welcome and Justice for People with Disabilities (1998)*. <https://ncpd.org/welcome-and-justice%C2%A0-persons-disabilities>
- ▲ *Welcome and Justice for People with Disabilities: A Parish Resource Guide (2003)*. This excellent document helps a parish evaluate how welcoming and inclusive it is for persons with disabilities. Includes ideas for liturgists, homilists, religious education/youth ministry programs, Catholic schools and more. [https://ncpd.org/resources\\_and\\_toolkits/opening-doors-welcome-and-justice-parish-guide](https://ncpd.org/resources_and_toolkits/opening-doors-welcome-and-justice-parish-guide)
- ✘ Notre Dame's Program for Inclusive Education Website Suggestions: <https://ace.nd.edu/sites/default/files/2021-08/pie-in-sites-for-inclusion-5.pdf>.
- ✘ Journal of Catholic Education Special Issue: Inclusion in Catholic Schools: <https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/ce/vol23/iss2/>.
- ✘ *Understood* is a nonprofit dedicated to shaping the world for difference. We provide resources and support so people who learn and think differently can thrive – in school, at work, and throughout life. We provide people with the tools and information they need to navigate challenges, improve skills, discover strengths, and find support. Our digital resources and community help people with differences – and those who support them – to build confidence. [www.Understood.org](http://www.Understood.org)
- ✘ *Autism and Your Church: Nurturing the Spiritual Growth of People with Autism Spectrum Disorders* by Barbara Newman, Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2006. An interfaith primer offering practical suggestions for welcoming and including individuals with ASD into the full life of parish communities. Available from Friendship Ministries, [www.withministries.org](http://www.withministries.org).

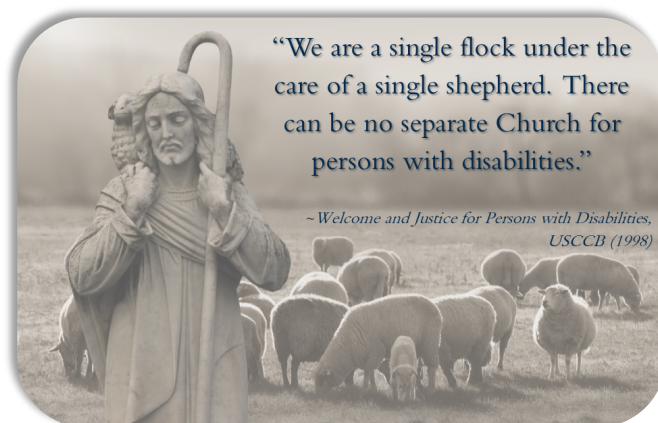
- ✘ Positive Behaviors Interventions and Support: <https://www.pbisworld.com>.
- ✘ *Catechists for All Children* by Dr. Joseph White and Ana Arista White, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, 2002. Offers insights and methods for accommodating unique emotional and behavioral needs in the classroom. Available from Our Sunday Visitor, [www.osv.com](http://www.osv.com).

### Other articles on this topic:

- [https://cruxnow.com/vatican/2020/12/pope-says-disabled-persons-have-a-right-to-the-sacraments?fbclid=IwAR2BzVmevydSOa71gPoyBX-n\\_w-Z1h4FV31QVZkw7N4K\\_Kt\\_0cqSvJrHHnw](https://cruxnow.com/vatican/2020/12/pope-says-disabled-persons-have-a-right-to-the-sacraments?fbclid=IwAR2BzVmevydSOa71gPoyBX-n_w-Z1h4FV31QVZkw7N4K_Kt_0cqSvJrHHnw)
- <https://www.pillaratholic.com/p/what-makes-a-parish-accessible>
- <https://uscatholic.org/articles/202007/its-time-to-make-parishes-accessible-to-people-of-all-abilities/>

### Helpful short videos:

- Pope Francis and Inclusion: <https://franciscan.yuja.com/V/Video?v=8321201&node=34986182&a=209192192&autoplay=1>
- Physical Illness vs Mental Illness: <https://franciscan.yuja.com/V/Video?v=8321200&node=34986180&a=193747428&autoplay=1>
- Sensory Processing Overload: <https://franciscan.yuja.com/V/Video?v=8321108&node=34985215&a=24922430&autoplay=1>
- What it feels like to be Autistic: <https://franciscan.yuja.com/V/Video?v=8321090&node=34985143&a=192640222&autoplay=1>
- Special Needs Awareness: <https://franciscan.yuja.com/V/Video?v=8321083&node=34985101&a=136115630&autoplay=1>



“We are a single flock under the care of a single shepherd. There can be no separate Church for persons with disabilities.”

~ *Welcome and Justice for Persons with Disabilities*,  
USCCB (1998)

## Questionnaire for Students with Special Needs

*Parent or legal guardians, please fill out the following questions to the best of your knowledge.*

Name (last, first):	Age/date of birth:	Language spoken by child:	Primary languages spoken at home:
Family members living with child:	Religious faith of parent/guardians:		
Child's experience in faith formation classes or sacramental preparation: (Please indicate where and when)			
What are your faith/religious goals for your child? How can our parish better serve your child's needs? (e.g. slower pacing in instruction of faith formation or sacramental preparation)			

*Please provide an approximate rating and write comments concerning any special needs for each of the following ability areas:*

*(4 - Strong, 3 - Good, 2 - Fair, 1 - Weak)*

Area	4	3	2	1	Comments/Specific Diagnoses)
Vision					
Hearing					
General Physical health					
Emotional health/maturity					
Social Skills					
Speech/Expressive skills					
Receptive skills/Following directions/listening comprehension					
Reading					

Writing					
Fine motor skills (cutting, pasting, lacing, sewing, writing)					
Gross motor skills (running, jumping, kicking)					
Music abilities or interests					
Artistic abilities or interests					

*Please provide a written response where appropriate.*

Does your child have a medical diagnosis? If so, please explain. <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Does your child receive special education service at his or her school? (e.g. IEP or 503 plan) <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Does your child need behavioral support in the classroom? If so, please explain. (e.g. quiet room, behavioral chart, visual schedule) <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
If your child does not receive any support services or therapies, would you like to learn more? <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Child's favorite activities or hobbies (e.g. playing with sand, swimming, watching TV, playing video games):

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Child's favorite school subjects:

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Does your child have any allergies, including food allergies?

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Does your child take any medication?

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Please write any further comments that would help us better serve the needs of your child.

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Signature of Parent/ Guardian

Print Name

Date

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Email address

Phone number