

Widening the  
Welcome:



***Inclusive Faith  
Formation  
How To's***

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# At the Heart



- Family

Church / Faith Community



of Jesus' Ministry!

# Right to Catechesis

- Communion with Jesus Christ
- The definitive aim of Catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion in intimacy, with Jesus Christ.



(Catechesi Tradendae)

# Jason's Story

- **What are your expectations from your parish community in relation to your son with autism?**



“The parish has been very supportive by inviting him to participate in Little Church School. In kindergarten Jacob has a one on one aide and the Little Church School has made the same provision for him on Sundays. When he is older we would like him to receive the sacraments. I know they will support him in the Prep program as well. “

# Garrett's Story

- My son Garrett is 12 years old and he just made Confirmation this past February -by the way, he has been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome ADHD and Anxiety. He has been a part of PREP at SS Simon and Jude Parish since he was 3 years old.
- *Second grade was First Communion. He was assigned the strongest teacher among all of the 2nd grade teachers. She kept me informed of everything he did. They pulled him out at least every other week to work one on one with a volunteer grandmotherly type who taught him in a quiet room. He also has many oral issues so they gave me an envelope of unblessed hosts and I gradually introduced him to the taste and feel by giving it to him a little bit each day so he would be ready for First Communion day.*



# Adam's Story



- Here are pictures from Adam's confirmation on March 23, 2004. I forget the Bishop's name and I can't find the program at the moment but he was wonderful! So patient and accommodating to Adam's needs. We did the confirmation in the dining room of the rectory and it was just great. It was a small group of Adam's family and friends. It was just enough people to make it meaningful but not overwhelming for him and he smiled through the whole thing. The Holy Spirit did come to him and us in that room and I was so grateful! He continues to grow in his spiritual life, I do believe and he is an example to us of Christ's presence in the world.



# How To's

## Catechesis for all Children



- Every parish should seek out its parishioners with intellectual, emotional, and physical disabilities, support them with love and concern, and **ensure that they have ready access** to a catechetical program suited to their needs and **abilities**. (2005 NDC 61:B,1, 2nd paragraph)



# The Parish as a Resource

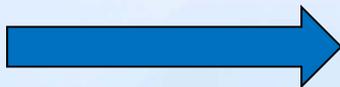
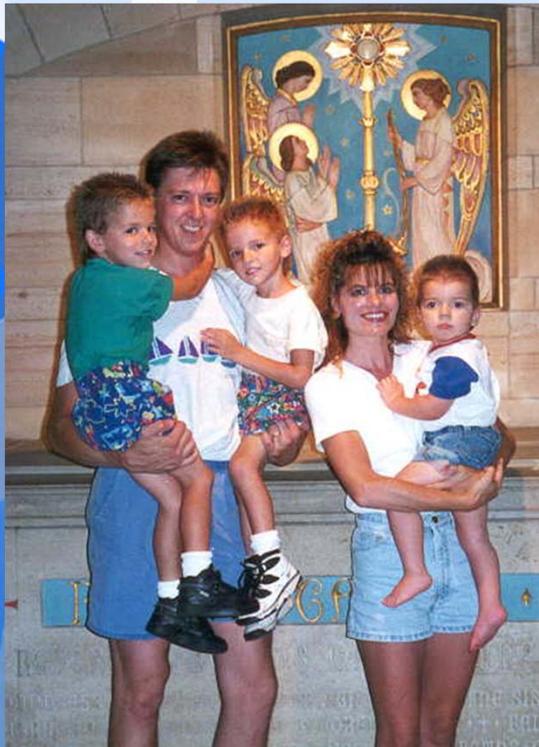


- The whole community of faith needs to be aware of the presence of persons with special needs within it and be involved in their catechesis.  
(NDC 49: 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph)

*Page 10 -  
Who might be some possible  
volunteers to assist in this endeavor?*



# HOW DO WE BEGIN?



- Engage the family in dialogue
  - What is it you want for your child?
- Use the PREP registration forms
  - Using language that is positive inquire about disabilities, learning needs and accommodations used at home and in school setting.
- What are the natural supports or professional supports in place?

# IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK



## MEDICAL/LEARNING DATA

If any of the following apply to your child, please list his/her name and give details in the appropriate spaces.

Child's Name	Medical Conditions/Allergies	Prescribed Medications	Disability* / Learning Support Services	Individualized Education Program IEP
				<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
				<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
				<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

Is there other information about your child that should be communicated?

\* As defined by *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*, the term "child with a disability" means a child: "with mental retardation, hearing impairments (including deafness), speech or language impairments, visual impairments (including blindness), serious emotional disturbance, orthopedic impairments, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairments, or specific learning disabilities; and who, by reason thereof, needs special education and related services.

**If there is indication of a disability. Gather further information.**

**Child Information Form could be used.**

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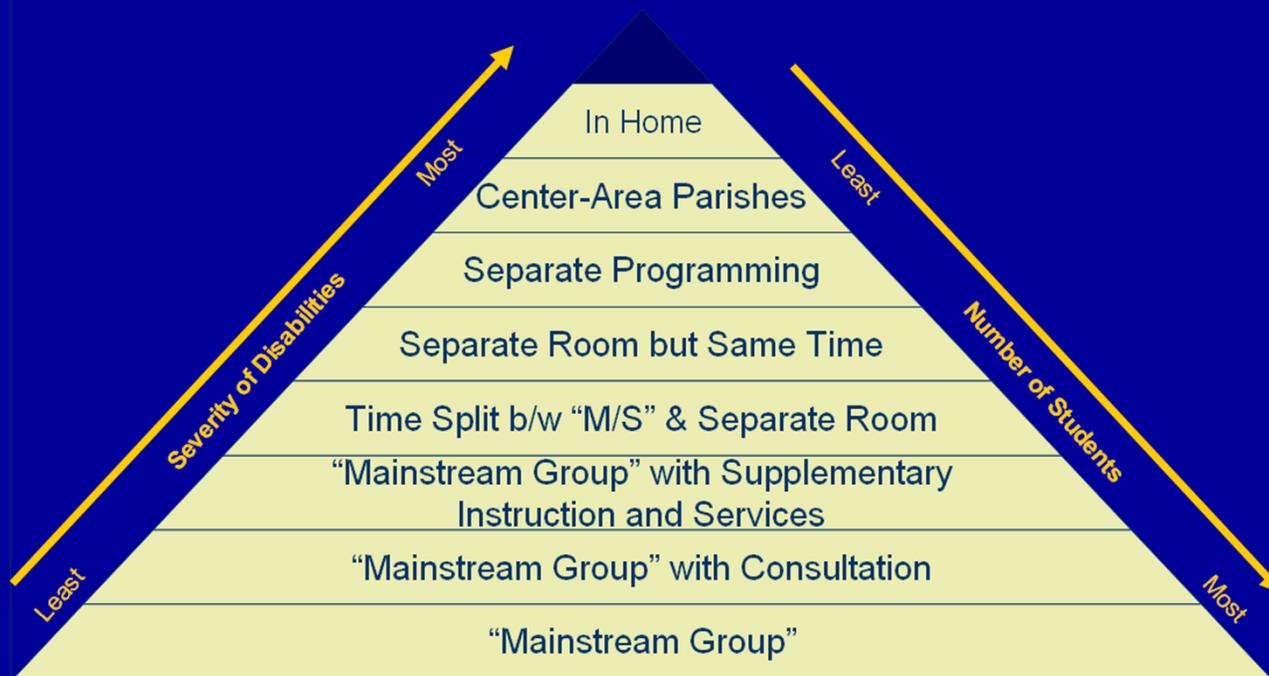
- **Persons with disabilities should be integrated into the ordinary catechetical programs as much as possible...they should not be segregated for specialized catecheses unless their disability make it impossible to participate in the basic catechetical program.**

(2005 NDC 49:B, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph)

# HOW TO: DETERMINE PLACEMENT?



## CONTINUUM OF MODELS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



PRAISE Presentation, Archdiocese of Newark, Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities

1

Page 7 of your binder...

# HOW TO: DETERMINE PLACEMENT



**Integration  
with Accommodations**

**Full Integration**

*Providing for an inclusive faith  
formation program is only limited  
by our imagination.  
These are suggested models of  
inclusion:*

**Program Integration in  
Learning Support Classroom**

**Integration with  
Individualized Instruction**

DFFHVV#DQG #LQFOXVLRQ#PRGHQV  
Parish Religious Education Programs  
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

# HOW TO: Considerations



- **Student strengths and skill limitations**
- **Required routines and activities for class, Mass and Sacraments**
- **Student and family preferences and goals**
- **Quality of life Concerns:**
  - Relationships
  - Happiness /Health/Safety
  - Choice and control
  - Access to preferred events



# How to: Supports for PREP

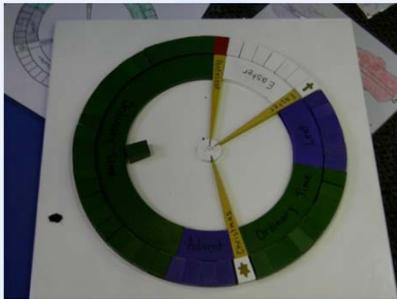


- Inclusion Facilitator, Prepared Catechist and volunteer assistants
- Appropriate placement
- Using Natural, Family and Peer Supports
- Therapeutic Support Staff (TSS) or Wrap Around



*Looking at p. 9 - What are your PREP strengths and challenges?*

# How to: Instructional Modifications



## Child Information Form *p.13*

- Instructional Modifications
- Accommodations
- Curriculums, books and resources – *bibliography p. 20*

# Resources



- **NCPD** National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities – [www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org)
- **NCOD** National Catholic Office for the Deaf - [www.ncod.org](http://www.ncod.org)
- **NAfIM** National Apostolate for Inclusion Ministry - [www.nafim.org](http://www.nafim.org)
- **NICE** Network of Inclusive Catholic Educators – [www.ipi.udayton.edu](http://www.ipi.udayton.edu)

## • Local Resources

- Diocesan Disabilities Resources
- State and Local Associations and Agencies
- Parents/Guardians
- Professionals in your parish and area



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- Catholics with disabilities have the right to participate in the sacraments as full functioning members of the ecclesial community.
- (2005 NDC 36:A, 3b-3/ canon 213)



- By reason of their Baptism, all Catholics are equal in dignity in the sight of God and have the same divine calling.
- (2005 NDC 36:A, 3b-3/ canon 213)



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*According to the Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities, 1995:*

- “As long as the individual is capable of having a sense of contrition for having committed sin, even if he or she cannot describe the sin precisely in words, the person may receive sacramental absolution.” #23
- “Those with profound mental disabilities who cannot experience even minimal contrition, may be invited to participate in penitential services with the rest of the community to the extent of their ability.”

# H x f k d u l v w



**According to the *Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities*, 1995:**

- “...that the person be able to distinguish the Body of Christ from ordinary food, even if this recognition is evidenced through manner, gesture or reverential silence...Cases of doubt should be resolved in favor of the right of the baptized person to receive the sacrament.” #20



## F r q i l u p d w l r q



According to the *Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities*, 1995:

- “Parents....and especially pastors are to see to it that the faithful who have been baptized are properly instructed to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and to approach it at the appropriate time.” #15
- “Persons who because of developmental or mental abilities may never attain the use of reason are encouraged directly or, if necessary, through their parents or guardian to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at the appropriate time.” #16

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- “What I heard from Him I tell the world.”
- The “echo” of the Word of God is catechesis.



**The parish is the door to participation for individuals with disabilities, and it is the responsibility of the pastor and lay leaders to make sure that this door is always open. (1978 USCCB Pastoral Statement #18)**

