

Accessibility and Inclusion in Ministry

Presented by Erin Jeffries and Marian Knueven
at Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish
October 6, 2015

“[Evangelization] involves the active participation of every Christian in the proclamation and demonstration that the Christian faith is the only fully valid response to the problems and hopes that life poses to every person and society”

NDC 19



NCPD defines disabilities as,

"The normal, anticipated outcomes of the risks, stresses, and strains of the living process."

(Mary Jane Owen, NCPD, 2000).

Looking at Language...



Impairment



Handicap



Disability

The Reality...

One person in every 5 has some form of disability, one family in every 3 has a member with a disability (per US Census Bureau)

One person in 68 is born with autism (per CDC 2014) (though some numbers given are as high as 1 in 50)

“All persons with disabilities have the capacity to proclaim the Gospel and to be living witnesses to its truth within the community of faith and offer valuable gifts. Their involvement enriches every aspect of Christian life. They are not just the recipients of catechesis- they are also it’s agents.”

National Directory of Catechesis 49



St. Malachy's Story





You do NOT need to be a special education teacher to effectively reach out to those with special needs- you just need to be ***OPEN*** and ***WILLING***.

What can Parish Professional Staff Do?

- Evaluate the accessibility of the liturgy and sacraments, training, workshops, faith formation opportunities etc.
- Encourage parish groups and committees to do the same.
- Include persons with disabilities in committees

What Can Parish Professional Staff Do?

- Evaluate the Sensory Accessibility
- Evaluate the Cognitive Accessibility
- Evaluating the Physical Accessibility

Identifying Individuals and Needs

Relationships

- Personal outreach
- Use networks
- Utilize parishioners
- Remember the families



Identifying Individuals and Needs

Planning Ahead

- Registration forms
- Be aware of environmental factors
- Allow for some flexibility

Identifying Individuals and Needs

Some Basic Questions...

- For Religious Education Programs
- For Adults

You don't necessarily NEED to know a diagnosis to learn how to assist someone in participating as fully as possible.

Where to Find Resources...

Archdiocesan staff



- Training and strategies
- Can help in the development of an inclusion team at a parish
- Information on different needs, adaptive resources and specialized programs

Where to Find Resources...



The image shows a screenshot of a Facebook profile for the ArchIndy Special Needs Ministry. The profile picture is a group of people, many wearing yellow shirts, posing on steps. The cover photo is a religious illustration of the Virgin Mary holding the Christ Child, set against a large yellow star. The page includes a navigation menu with options for Timeline, About, Photos, Likes, and More. The 'About' section shows the website URL <http://archindy.org/oce>. The 'Timeline' section features a post from September 24 at 5:09am with a quote from Pope Francis and 86 likes. A comment from SPRED Milwaukee is visible at the bottom.

ArchIndy Special Needs Ministry
Church/Religious Organization

Timeline | About | Photos | Likes | More ▾

PEOPLE >

86 likes

ABOUT >

<http://archindy.org/oce>

PHOTOS >

ArchIndy Special Needs Ministry
September 24 at 5:09am · 🌐

"Jesus said: Go out and tell the good news to everyone. Go out and in my name embrace life as it is, and not as you think it should be. Go out to the highways and byways, go out to tell the good news fearlessly, without prejudice, without superiority, without condescension, to all those who have lost the joy of living."
Pope Francis (from the homily in the Mass canonizing St. Junipero Serra)

👍 Like 💬 Comment

SPRED Milwaukee likes this.

Where to Find Resources...

Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Catechesis for Persons with Special Needs

Homepage
Events
News
Awareness
Inclusion
Specialized Approaches
Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Ministry
Retreat Forms
Forms

Search



St. Angela Merici, patron of persons with special needs, pray for us!

The Office of Worship and Evangelization resources catechetical ministry for people with disabilities. This Special Religious Education effort takes a three-pronged approach in enhancing evangelization and catechesis for and with persons whose special needs show us God's face, helping us grow in His love.

Browse our site using the links to the left or below:

- [Events](#)
- [News](#)
- [Awareness](#)
- [Inclusion](#)
- [Specialized Approaches](#)
- [Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Ministry](#)
- [Retreat Forms](#)
- [Forms](#)

If you have any questions or needs, please don't hesitate to contact Erin Jeffries at 317-236-1448 or erjffries@archindy.org.

Featured Items

- Events
- News
- Forms
- Resources

Three-Pronged Approach

Awareness - The Office of Worship and Evangelization (OWE) strives to increase awareness of disabilities by assisting parishes with information and strategies for effective communication about persons with disabilities.

Facebook
e

www.archindy.org/specialneeds

Where to Find Resources

www.archindy.org/deaf

Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Ministry

Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Ministry

Interpreted Masses in the Archdiocese

9:00 am Sunday Mass at [St. Matthew Catholic Church](#), Indianapolis

Sacramental Preparation Resources

Program for [First Reconciliation](#) in ASL from NCOD *Available in office for review!

Program for [Confirmation](#) in ASL from NCOD, featuring Fr. Mike Depcik *Available for review!

Fr. Shawn Carey explains the steps in [making a good confession](#), including the Act of Contrition

Resources for Interpreting the Mass

YouTube Playlist: [New Roman Missal for Interpreters](#) (from the Archdiocese of Washington)

NCOD DVD Resource: [Liturgical Signs and Prayers](#)

YouTube Video: [New Roman Missal Translation](#) (from the Archdiocese of Boston)

[Interpreter Resources/ASL videos](#) (from the Archdiocese of Boston)

[Interpreting the Mass: Decision Making, Preparation and Practice](#) (workshop)

[Signing the Scriptures, Year A, B and C](#) by Joan Blake: It is important to note that these books do NOT provide pictures of the signs, but the word order for the readings, using the ASL syntax. *These are available in the office to review

[Religious Signing: A Comprehensive Guide for All Faiths](#) by Elaine Costello, Ph.D: A good, visual dictionary for religious signs. *Available in the office for review

Where to Find Resources...



Where to Find Resources...



CATECHISTS *for All Children*



JOSEPH D. WHITE, PH.D., AND
ANA ARISTA WHITE

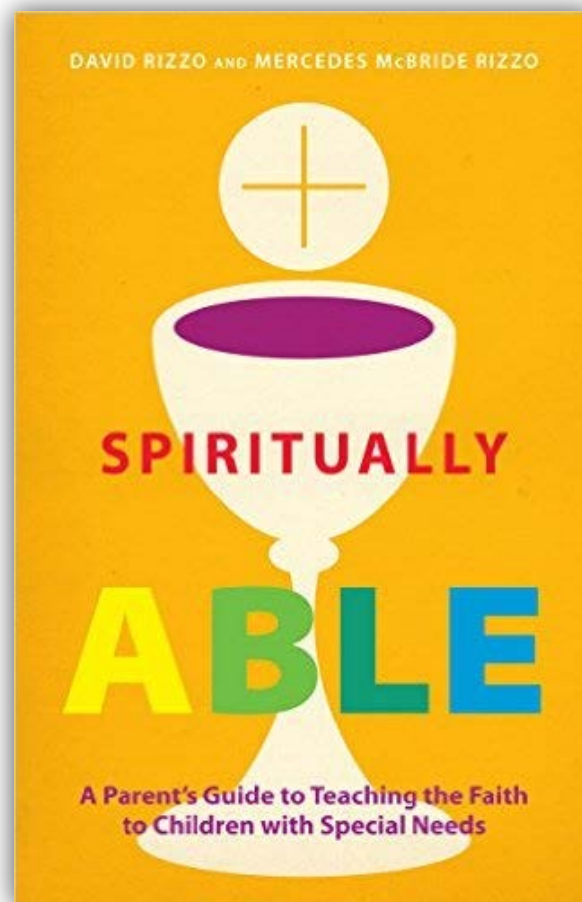
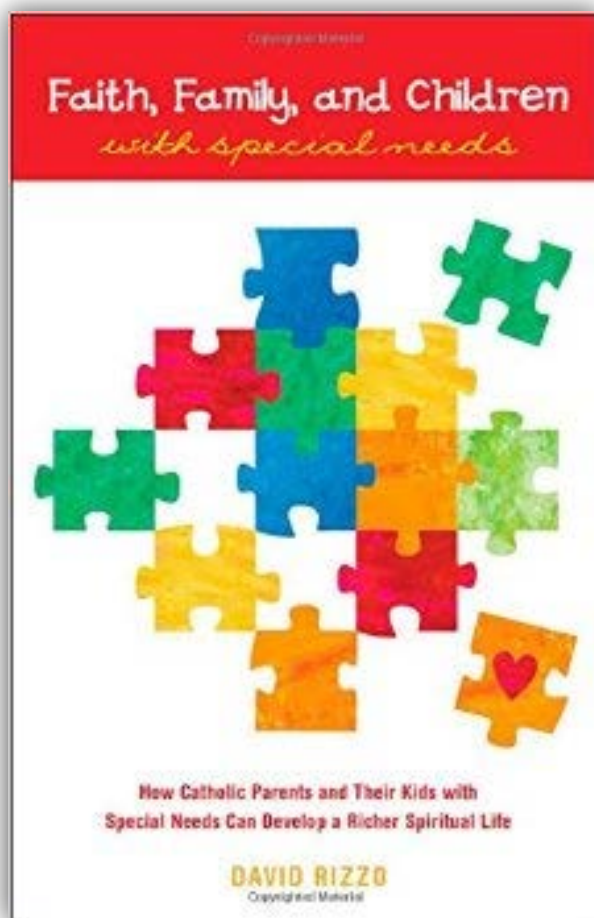
A PARISH-BASED APPROACH

HOW TO
**Welcome,
Include, AND
Catechize**

Children with Autism
and Other Special Needs



LAWRENCE R. SUTTON, PH.D.



Dealing with Difficult Behavior

- Behavior has a purpose
- Behavior is communication
- People tend to continue doing things that get results

So the most important question to ask is
"why"

Behavior is like an iceberg

What you see...

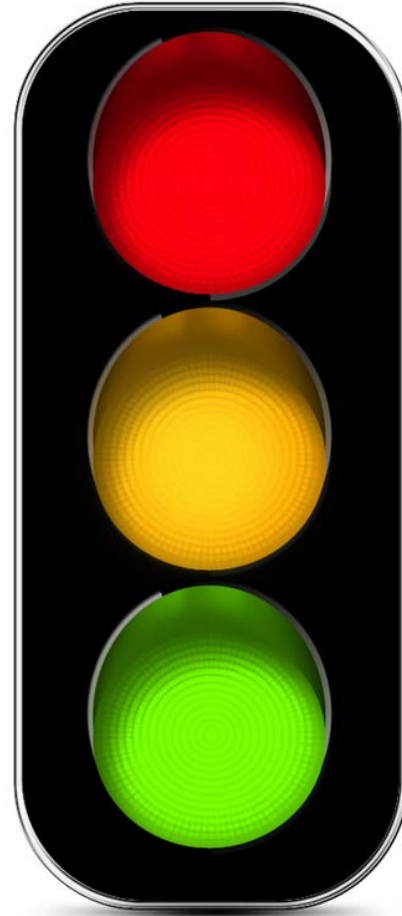
Am I safe?
Am I loved?
Do I matter?
I feel angry.
I feel sad.
I feel scared.
I feel hungry or tired.
I am feeling overwhelmed.
I have developmental delays.
I can't communicate any other way!
I feel overstimulated. I have sensory needs.
I need understanding or help!

(What they're really saying)

The *Brain State* Model

Our internal emotional state affects our behavior...

- **Survival:** “Am I safe?”
 - I need to know I am safe.
- **Emotional:** “Am I loved?”
 - I need a connection.
- **Executive:** “What can I learn from this?”
 - I am ready to learn and use problem solving/critical thinking skills.



Observations

Put Behavior In Context

- **Setting** (where, what time of day, who... etc.),
- What occurred immediately **before** the behavior
- An **objective description** of what the behaviors are
- What happened immediately **after** the behavior- including the individual's response

Who: Start as small as possible: the individual, their parent(s), caretaker, and/or advocate, and you.

Be clear as to what the undesirable behavior is, and what the expected behavior is.



Utilize: interests, likes, dislikes, motivators, learning strategies, and possible triggers

Determine positive and negative **Consequences**

Difficult Adults...

*

Most people do simply want to be heard, and understood- even if you are disagreeing.

*

The same physical and emotional states that affect children are still affecting us as adults, and in difficult situations we have a tendency to revert to instinctual responses.

Intellect and Free Will...



You cannot force a person (adult or child) to change their behavior-
but you can always control your own.

Positive Intent:

Asking yourself “why” and not assuming the worst...



Seeing things from the others perspective