

Keeping...

In Step with the Master Teacher



Issue 2:5

Additional Needs

Like all children, those with additional needs want to feel secure and accepted and have the opportunity to grow in their faith. With extra needs to consider, this requires thought and planning. Is there a way to integrate children with disabilities into your group so that all the children can learn and grow together?



To learn more, we recommend the ISMT training session: *Working with children with additional needs*

Practical Tip

The “buddy system” is one idea that works well for many leaders. A “buddy” is a loving, caring adult or teen who volunteers to sit with a particular child from week to week. The child’s buddy should be the same person each week so that she feels secure. If possible, arrange for the buddy and the group leader to meet with the child and their parents before the first session. At this meeting, discuss what the child’s particular needs are and explain to the child what usually happens in your group.

When your group meets, the buddy’s role is to encourage the child to join in as much as possible, and assist her as needed. When the child is not coping well in the class, her buddy can quietly take her to another place in the room where she is within hearing range, but without the teaching or activity being disrupted. The buddy is there to encourage and help the child feel safe and included in the group.

From [Christ], the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love. *Ephesians 4:16 (NIV)*

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