

Madonna Parents Helpline



Madonna School, Serving Students with Special Needs, was founded in 1960 by Sister Evangeline Randolph, RSM. She was working with students at St. James Orphanage when she found two of them had developmental delays. Sister Evangeline, calling upon her graduate study in special education, began teaching them. Word spread rapidly and soon she had 25 students from across Omaha. **Madonna School** was born.

Housed since 2004 on a bright, attractive campus near 72nd and Redick, **Madonna** now includes a K-12 school with a capacity for 50 students and a Life Skills Transition Program to help students ages 18 to 21 maximize their independence and attain jobs in competitive employment. The **Madonna Shop**, a sheltered workshop, has served disabled adults since 1983, allowing them the dignity and self-worth that come with working every day to earn a paycheck.

Madonna School & Our Lady of Hope Life Skills Transition Program

6402 North 71st Plaza
Omaha, NE 68104
(402) 556-1883

Madonna Shop
9205 Bedford Avenue
Omaha, NE 68134
(402) 551-5441



(402) 556-1883

*Where parents of special needs
children can turn to speak with
someone who understands.*



What are “special needs?”

When a parent learns a child has special needs, the guidance of experts such as physicians is essential. But the parents often find themselves in a personal crisis, uncertain where to turn. They could use the support of a fellow parent who has lived through similar experience.

That’s where the Madonna Parents’ Helpline comes in.

Parents of past and present students at Madonna School have experienced a wide range of special needs: **Down syndrome, Developmental Delay** (unspecified learning disability), **Autism, Asperger Disorder**, and **Physical Disabilities**.

Madonna’s parent-volunteers are at your disposal, ready and willing to share their experiences. They make themselves available to help other parents like you through the challenging days of understanding a child’s special needs, finding useful resources, and networking with others whose children require unique care and attention.

“Special needs” refers to the whole range of intellectual, developmental, physical and behavioral challenges that certain children face. The **Madonna Parents Helpline** can handle inquiries regarding a specific set of relatively common special needs:

Down syndrome: a genetic disorder associated with the presence of an extra chromosome 21, characterized by mild to severe intellectual disability, weak muscle tone, a low nasal bridge, and folds at the eyelids.

Developmental Delay occurs when a child has the delayed achievement of one or more milestones involving speech and language, fine and gross motor skills, and/or personal and social skills.

Autism: a pervasive developmental disorder of children characterized by impaired communication, excessive rigidity, and emotional detachment.

Asperger Disorder: a subgroup of autism characterized by social isolation and eccentric behavior in childhood. Social interaction and non-verbal communication are impaired; the individual has a circumscribed area of interest which can be a barrier to social interaction.

Physical Disabilities: a broad range of disabilities which include orthopedic, neuromuscular, cardiovascular and pulmonary disorders. People with these disabilities often must rely upon assertive devices such as wheelchairs, crutches, canes, and artificial limbs to obtain mobility.

How the Madonna Parents’ Helpline works:

- Call the **Helpline** at (402) 556-1883. The receptionist at Madonna School will take your first name, phone number, and the best time(s) for reaching you within the next 48 hours.
- A **Madonna Parent** volunteer will return your call during the time you chose as best suited to your schedule.
- *The volunteers provide helpful, personal information, but they are not trained professionals, and neither Madonna School nor the volunteers assume responsibility for the information provided. Callers retain full responsibility for all decisions affecting their children.*