Becoming a “Master Chef” in Special Needs Ministry

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INCLUSION FUSION LIVE, 2019
Objectives

Participants will:

- Create a definition for effective inclusion
- Discuss ways to create a comfortable environment for ALL learners
- Identify strategies for modifying curriculum
- List methods for increasing kids’ attention and engagement in church
- Practice effective communication with parents
Inclusion Is NOT

- A Place
- A Program
Inclusion IS:

The Body of Christ!

- The church is incomplete without the gifts of all (1 Corinthians 12:14-31)

...If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. If one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now each of you are the body of Christ and each of you are part of it.
Roll Out the Welcome Mat...
Consider the “Guest List...”

- Who is coming?
- What needs do they have?
- How can I make each guest comfortable?
- How can I help my guests get to know each other?
Modifying Your Space

- SAFETY FIRST
- Signage
- Clutter
- Room size
- Escape routes
- “What-if??”
Staffing for Hospitality and Safety

- Greeters (and “Stealth Greeters”)
- Parking Lot Attendants
- Ushers
- Music Leaders
- Medical support
- Security
- Helpers
In a Neighborhood Near You...
Barriers for Parents

- Parents fear being judged within the Christian community
- Parents become tired of having to manage their child’s behavior—and explain it to others in new settings
- Social isolation is often the norm; families affected by hidden disabilities are less likely to be invited to church
- Stress, economic strain and fatigue are common; more likely to stay home on Sunday
What Do Parents Bring To the Table?
Good grief!

Good Grief!

- Denial
- Anger
- Despair
- Bargaining
- Acceptance
“I just wanted you to know how hard I’ve been working...”
Methods of Building Relationships

- Class newsletter (written by the students)
- News report on video
- Emails
- Phone calls
- Facebook Group?
- Parent volunteer/co-op model
Proactive Planning

- Transition information
- Observations in May
- Intake
- Parent input

“If you don’t have time to do it right, you’ll have to find time to do it over.”
Modifying Your Classroom Management

- Reinforcing positive behavior (and referring to class rules)
- Providing opportunities for movement
- Learning to “read” your students
- Planning activities that keep kids engaged
Modifying Your Activities/Lessons
Four Types of Lesson Modifications

- INPUT
- LEVEL OF SUPPORT
- OUTPUT
- PARTICIPATION
Working Together ~ Inclusive Strategies

- Time keeper
- Encourager
- Reporter
- But-Watcher
Q & A Time
I loved spending time with you...
Please keep in touch!

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