

Bonus: Interview with Barbara Newman

Find the *Serving Children with Disabilities* training series associated with this resource at awana.org/clubclinic.

1. How do I determine whether a child doesn't have the ability to memorize scripture or just isn't motivated?

Get to know the child and talk to the parent. Does the child receive special accommodations at school?

You may find out that the child doesn't spend time at home working on their sections. In this case, talk to the parents and clubber about building a regular time of Scripture memory into their day.

2. What if I go to the parent and the parent is defensive and denies that the child has a disability?

First, understand that this is a hard process for parents to go through. Talk to the parent using the phrase, "I noticed ...". Start by noticing the child's strengths and the ways they contribute to the club. Then pick one challenge you have noticed and ask the parent if they have noticed this in their child as well.

Remember that parents may fear rejection if their child is identified with having a disability. Make it clear that this conversation is to help their child be successful in Awana and that you are there to help.

3. How can we help other kids in club include a child with a disability?

The plan that was discussed in the series for the child with the disability is actually only half of the plan. The child's peers also need to have a plan. Check out the resource box for helpful resources to bring awareness to other children about disabilities.

Information is powerful. For example, if a child has difficulty with loud sounds, it would certainly be helpful for the rest of the group to be aware of that fact.

In some situations you may not want to talk openly about the particular disability a child has. In this case, use the puzzle pieces to explain to children that everyone has strengths and weaknesses.

4. What if I don't have a leader available to provide one-on-one support for a child who needs it?

Specify what you need this leader to do. A personal request on behalf of the child may motivate church members to respond. Consider two volunteers to share this responsibility of assisting this child. Communicate that you simply are looking for caring people not special educators, nurses, or psychologists. Challenge your teens to get involved. Many teens have experience learning in inclusive settings.



Resources

Helping Kids Include Kids with Disabilities

Find it: Online store at clcnetwork.org

Inclusion Awareness Kit

Find it: Online store at clcnetwork.org

Body Building

Find it: Online store at clcnetwork.org

Your Feet, My Shoes

Find it: Online store at clcnetwork.org