Adapting Curriculum For Individuals With Special Needs

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Which curriculum is best?

- You can adapt any curriculum. The BEST curriculum is the one that is Christ centered!

- Curriculum that has a variety of ways to present the central theme is preferred.
What to consider when choosing a curriculum

- Solid Biblical foundation!
- Developmentally appropriate for the chronological age of the children in the class.
- Are the lessons written to be child friendly?
- Does each lesson state the Biblical theme/message?
- Does the lesson give you a variety of ways to present the material?
How Do I Tailor for an Individual with Special Needs?

- Know the content of the lesson.
- Know the student with special needs.
- Gain knowledge from the caregiver.
- Observe the student in your classroom environment.
- Gain knowledge about typical child development - this will give you a better understanding of where the child with special needs is functioning.
Once you have the information about the student regarding the disability, take some time to learn the characteristics of the disability. Remember that not all of the characteristics apply to each student with a particular disability or diagnosis.
Getting ready for the lesson!

- Important to know the approximate developmental age of the student.
- Look at the lesson and figure out what the central theme or message that each student should learn.
- Examine your lesson to see if the author gives you ideas for alternative ways to present the material.
- Another resource to adapting curriculum is special education teacher resources.
Walk through adapting a lesson

Student profile:

Noah is a five year old boy who has Down Syndrome and Sensory Processing disorder. He likes routine and he likes predictability. He has limited expressive speech, but his parents report that he seems to understand what is said to him. He learns best when he works with his hands and by doing!
Lesson for the week

- Mark 12:41-44 The Poor Woman’s Gift
- What is the central theme of the lesson?
- Given Noah’s needs, what are some creative, hands-on ways to present the lesson?
- Looking at Noah’s sensory needs, how might we incorporate some sensory materials or not?
- What are some ways to help Noah stay focused on the lesson by addressing his need for predictability within the classroom?
Can we incorporate this lesson throughout the morning (if Sunday school) to more than just the table time/sit and listen to the lesson EX. Free play-what could we do, Blocks center? Game center?
Group activity

- Get into groups of 2, 3, or 4
- You will be given a description of a student with special needs and a lesson theme.
- Work together as a group and come up with ways you could adapt the classroom and the lesson to meet this child’s needs as well as the group.
Questions/Answers
Curriculum Resources

- Friendship Ministries (Canada)
- Lifeway
- Gospel Light
- Disciple land
- 252 Basics