



Supporting Families with Children with Disabilities *Suggestions for Parishes*

- ⇒ Be good listeners
- ⇒ Recognize parents may grieve, not their child, but the life of a typical child they imagined
- ⇒ Ask the family what you can do to help
- ⇒ Take the time to personally greet a child with a disability
- ⇒ Introduce families with children with disabilities to other families
- ⇒ Ask yourself if you are *adding to* or *helping to alleviate* the stress of the family
- ⇒ Be understanding and accept the person with the disability and family as they are, not what you think they should be
- ⇒ Consider providing respite so family members can attend church functions
- ⇒ Learn about disabilities and create opportunities for youth to spend meaningful time interacting with people of all abilities
- ⇒ Work to make parish liturgical celebrations and catechetical programs accessible to all parish children

**Department for Pastoral Care for Persons with Disabilities and
the Deaf Apostolate
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-587-3530 voice, 215-587-0510 TTY, 215-587-3561 Fax
PCPDDEAF@adphila.org**