

## **Resources for Meeting the Spiritual Needs of Children with Special Needs and Their Families**

### **Books**

*10 Principles of Spiritual Parenting: Nurturing Your Child's Soul* by Mimi Doe and Marsha Walch (ISBN# 0060952415)

*100 Ways to Keep Your Soul Alive* by Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat  
(ISBN # 0-06-251050-9)

*A Forgiving Heart: Prayers for Blessing and Reconciliation* by Lyn Klug  
(ISBN# 0806639970)

*A Place Called Acceptance: Ministry with Families of Children with Disabilities*  
by Kathleen Deyer Bolduc (ISBN# 1578950988))

*A Sideways Look at Time* by Jay Griffiths (ISBN# 1585423068)

*Autism and Your Church: Nurturing the Spritual Growth of People with Autism Spectrum Disorders* by Barbara J. Newman (ISBN# 1592552730)

*Bless This Child: A Treasury of Poems, Quotations and Readings to Celebrate Birth*  
by Edward Searl (ISBN# 1558964894)

*Chicken Soup for the Soul – Children With Special Needs* edited by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Heather McNamara, and Karen Simmons (ISBN# 978-0-7573-0620-4)

*Come Into the Circle: Worshipping with Children* by Michelle Richards  
(ISBN# 1-55896-533-5)

*God Plays Piano Too: The Spiritual Life of children with Disabilities* by Brett Webb Mitchell  
(ISBN# 0824513746)

*Helping People with Developmental Disabilities Mourn: Practical Rituals for Caregivers* by Marc A. Markell (ISBN# 1-879651-46-7)

*Helping Kids Include Kids With Disabilities* by Barbara J. Newman.  
(ISBN# 1562127772)

*How to Bury a Goldfish, and Other Ceremonies and Celebrations for Everyday Life*

by Virginia Lang and Louise Nayer (ISBN# 1-55896-519-X)

*Including People with Disabilities in Faith Communities: A Guide for Service Providers, Families, & Congregations* by Erik Carter (ISBN# 1557667438)

*Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*  
by Richard Louv (ISBN# 156512605X)

*Let All the Children Come to Me: A Practical Guide to Including Children with Disabilities in Your Church Ministries* by MaLesa Breeding, Dana Hood, & Jerry Whitworth  
(ISBN# 0781444047)

*Moving to the Manger: A Journey from Exclusion to Inclusion* by Michael J. Hoggatt  
(ISBN# 1434351166)

*Ordinarily Sacred* by Lynda Sexson (ISBN# 0813914167)

*Parenting with Spirit: 30 Ways to Nurture Your Child's Spirit and Enrich Your Family's Life*  
by Jane Bartlett (ISBN# 1569244057)

*Seeking with All My Heart: Encountering God's Presence Today* by Paula D'Arcy  
(ISBN# 0824521099)

*Special Needs Smart Pages: Advice, Answers and Articles About Teaching Children with Special Needs* by Joni E. Tada (ISBN# 0830747192)

*Special Needs, Special Ministry* by Jim Pierson, Louise Tucker Jones, and Pat Verbal  
(ISBN# 978-0-7644-2547-9)

*Spiritual Literacy: Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life* by Frederic and  
Mary Ann Brussat (ISBN# 0-68483534-7)

*Teaching Your Children About God: A Modern Jewish Approach* by David J. Wolpe  
(ISBN# 0060976470)

*The Disabled God: Toward a Liberatory Theology of Disability* by Nancy L. Eiesland  
(ISBN #0-687-10801-2)

*The Heart of a Family: Searching America for New Traditions That Fulfill Us*  
by Meg Cox (ISBN# 0-679-44863-2).

*The Parent's Tao Te Ching: A New Interpretation, Ancient Advice to Modern Parents*  
by William Martin (ISBN#1569246629)

*The Special Needs Ministry Handbook: A Church's Guide to Reaching Children with Disabilities and Their Families* by Amy Rapada (ISBN# 978-1-4196-6547-9)

*Traits of a Healthy Spirituality* by Melannie Svoboda (ISBN# 0896226980)

*Visions of Innocence: Spiritual and Inspirational Experiences of Childhood*  
by Edward Hoffman (ISBN# 0-87773-606-5).

*We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For: Inner Light in a Time of Darkness*  
by Alice Walker (ISBN# 1595581375).

*Welcoming Children with Special Needs: A Guidebook for Faith Communities* by Sally Patton  
(ISBN# 1-55896-479-7)

*Welcoming Spirit Home: Ancient African Teachings to Celebrate Children and Community*  
by Sobonfu Some (ISBN: 1-57731-009-8)

### **Online Resources**

[http://www.nationalministries.org/children/docs/Childrens\\_Corner\\_2008fallwinter.pdf](http://www.nationalministries.org/children/docs/Childrens_Corner_2008fallwinter.pdf) - The Fall/Winter 2008 issues of the newsletter from the National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA; "Children with Special Needs."

<http://www.medicalhomeportal.org/living-with-child/transition-issues/transition-to-adulthood/spiritual-needs> - a resource page for addressing the spiritual needs of people with special healthcare needs, by University of Utah Dept. of Pediatrics.

<http://new/gbgm-umc.org/umcor/work/health/disc/> - United Methodist Committee on Relief's "DISC" (Disability Concerns) webpage is a resource of persons with disabilities, their families, friends, caretakers, congregations and clergy, focusing on spiritual care.

<http://www.nod.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=feature.showFeature&FeatureID=1512&C:\CFusion8\verity\Data\dummy.txt> - The purpose of this handbook, *That All May Worship*, is to assist congregations, national faith groups and seminaries in welcoming people with disabilities. The handbook is interfaith in scope and concerns people with all types of disabilities.

<http://embracechildspirit.org/specialneedslinks.htm> - books and online sources for parents, caregivers, and faith communities involved with children with special needs and challenges.

<http://journalseek.net/cgi-bin/journalseek/journalsearch.cgi?field=issn&query=1522-8967> - a link to the Journal of Religion, Disability & Health.

<http://www.embracechildspirit.org/> - webpage of Sally Patton, author of *Welcoming Children with Special Needs*.

<http://www.thecreativesoulofchildren.org/> - The purpose of CSC, Inc is to foster a paradigm shift from the deficit model to the whole child model by (1) starting a national dialogue; (2) bringing

professionals together who are promoting this paradigm shift; and (3) energizing parent/teachers/professionals to see past the labels to the whole, unique child.

<http://www.aapd.com/Interfaith/Interfaith.html> - The mission of the American Association for People with Disabilities Interfaith Initiative is to support people with disabilities and their families as they seek spiritual and religious access, and to bring the powerful and prophetic voice of the faith community to the 21st Century disability agenda.

<http://www.SpiritualityandPractice.com> – This website offers the e-course “Practicing Spirituality with Children.”

<http://www.hospicefoundation.org/education/webinars/spidslides.pdf> - “Supporting Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities Through Illness, Grief and Loss” (slides from webinar, hosted by Hospice Foundation of America).

<http://clcnetwork.org> - Since 1979, the CLC Network has delivered education and support services to faith-based and public charter schools, home educators, and churches nationwide. Services include individual assessment, educational and worship planning, teacher and parent seminars, as well as online courses. CLC Network staff members work closely with your home, school and church community to ensure that those who have disabilities, unique learning challenges, or exceptional academic gifts become vital participants who are challenged to their fullest capabilities.

<http://friendship.org> - This international, inter-denominational ministry with more than 25 years of service, has helped equip churches from more than 60 denominations to include people with intellectual disabilities.

<http://legacy.pastors.com/RWMT/?ID=182> – Scroll down to “Ways your church can minister to families with special needs children” and click on “more.”

[http://www.nationalministries.org/resources/church\\_life\\_leadership/wcll-602\\_Families\\_Children\\_Disabilities.pdf](http://www.nationalministries.org/resources/church_life_leadership/wcll-602_Families_Children_Disabilities.pdf) - Excellent handout from a workshop for churches, “Becoming a Place Called Acceptance: Ministries with Families of children with Disabilities” by Kathleen Dolduc.

[http://faith-at-home.com/articles/including-children\\_lc.html](http://faith-at-home.com/articles/including-children_lc.html) - How to include children with special needs in worship and church school programs.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/momsense/2000/novdec/7.70.html> - An article about special needs: How one church reached out to these struggling families.

[http://baptist-church.suite101.com/article.cfm/children\\_with\\_special\\_needs](http://baptist-church.suite101.com/article.cfm/children_with_special_needs) - An article about children with special needs: “How a Children’s Ministry Can Cater to These Kids.”

[www.MangerConsulting.com](http://www.MangerConsulting.com) – Manger Consulting began with the idea that people, being equally created in God, have an equal right to belong. We believe that churches, schools or

community organizations should never turn people away because of disability, background or income. We look to the Manger as a model of welcome and inclusion. To that end we are focused on providing training, education, support, and advocacy to organizations as well as individuals.

### **Support Groups**

***Mosaic Ministry***, at Third Presbyterian Church, 600 Forest Avenue, Richmond VA 23229 (<https://thirdpres.org>). Katherine Nott, Co-Director of children's Ministry ([catherinen@thirdpres.org](mailto:catherinen@thirdpres.org)). Mosaic Ministry provides a place to build relationships with others who understand the joys and difficulties of raising a child with special needs.

***Extraordinary Families***, a faith-based support group for families who are caring for children with special needs. Contact Jennifer Bittner ([extraordinaryfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:extraordinaryfamilies@gmail.com)) or Sarah Beasley ([sbeasley@mvcnow.org](mailto:sbeasley@mvcnow.org)) at Mount Vernon Baptist Church, 11220 Nuckols Rd., Glen Allen VA, 23059 ([www.mvcnow.org/kids](http://www.mvcnow.org/kids)). We offer both inspiration and information. Open to the community. 2nd Sunday of each month, September 2009 – May 2010, 4:30-6:00pm.

***Eagle's Nest***, a faith-based support group for families who have children with special needs. Contact Tammy Burns ([tammy@theridgeonline.cc](mailto:tammy@theridgeonline.cc)) at Woolridge Road Baptist Church, 5130 Woolridge Rd., Moseley VA 23120 (<http://www.theridgeonline.cc/About.html>).

***The Friendship Circle*** connects teen volunteers, children with special needs, and their families to the Jewish community through educational and social opportunities; engages children and teens with special needs through a full range of experiences; supports parents and members with much needed respite and support; and enriches, inspires, and motivates teens to share their time and talents with others. <http://www.friendshipcircle.com/about.asp>