

# Adapting Curriculum

## *Tips for Adapting Curriculum for Students with Special Needs*



### Basic Adaptation Tips

#### Boil it Down

- Look for the “nugget” or the key concept of the story.
- Restate that concept in the simplest, most concrete way.

#### Personalize

- Help your friends relate the lesson to themselves or their family.
- Use your friends’ names as you re-tell or apply the lesson.

#### Incorporate Action

- Add hand and arm motions, including sign-language.
- Build in movement or dance as you communicate or apply the lesson.

#### Consider Learning Styles and Strengths

- Most students benefit from a mix of styles
- Visual learners learn well when they can see information displayed visually.
- Auditory learners will learn best through hearing the story or repeating it through music.
- Tactile learners will respond well when they are able to touch and feel the story.
- Experiential learners will learn best when they are immersed within the story (role-play, drama, etc.).

#### Enable Participation in Activities

- Coach your friends on how they can best join into games or modify game requirements if necessary.
- Find alternative roles for participation if your friends cannot physically or verbally participate (e.g., coach, scorekeeper, etc.).

#### Provide Language Support

- Rephrase questions or basic concepts.
- Help your friends express questions or answers as appropriate.

#### De-stress

- Build breaks into the schedule.
- Provide sensory materials and a safe place for stress reduction.

#### Making Curriculum Easy to Understand and Remember

- Incorporate visuals and manipulative tools.
- Use safe sturdy objects to illustrate and reinforce.
- Put Bible verses to familiar music.
- Plan alternating activities in short blocks of time.
- Spread motivating activities throughout the lesson to keep your friends engaged.
- Post a schedule of the day and stick to the schedule.