

Learning Challenges

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

Key Principles:

Learning challenges can include struggles with memorizing, focus, understanding, speaking, reading, writing, IQ and many others.

In Handbook Time and Large Group Time, a learning challenge can include difficulty memorizing verses, trouble reading, or an inability to sit still and focus. In Game Time, a learning challenge can include a struggle to understand and remember directions.

Children can communicate that the situation is too hard for them in various ways. A drop-off in attendance or poor behavior may be a sign that a particular child has a learning disability.

As you seek to help a child with a learning disability succeed in Awana, think about the child's green areas and consider what they can do well.



Think of each member of the body of Christ as a pink and green puzzle piece.

Green = areas of strength

Pink = areas of weakness

Every member is made up of both pink and green!



Tips for Handbook Time:

- Can the child write instead of recite?
- Can the child accomplish sections by filling in the blank?
- Can the child record his sections at home and bring the recording to club?
- Can you set the verse to a beat or a song?
- Is it appropriate to cut down the length of the verse for a particular child?



Tips for Game Time:

- Can you give directions one at a time and ask everyone to respond before giving the next direction?
- Can you use an LIT to provide one-on-one assistance for a child?
- Can you provide a video clip of the most popular games for a child to watch and memorize at home?



Tips for Large Group Time:

- E.Z.C. Readers® and highlighter tape can help children focus on the particular verse or sentence you want them to read. (Samples of these items can be found in the *Inclusion Tool Kit* from clcnetwork.org).
- Place a bookmark in the right page so that the child can use their time to find the right verse on the page instead of having to lookup a reference from scratch.
- Provide the parent with a verse you know will be read in Large Group Time ahead of time so that the child can practice reading it at home.
- Can you involve a child who struggles with reading in other areas of Large Group Time such as singing or drama?



Stop and Think

Do you know or suspect that a child in your club has a learning disability?

What accommodations need to be made to help this child succeed?

Before implementing special accommodations for a child make sure you discuss them with your club director and the child's parents.



Resources

Memorization Tips

Find it: Children with Disabilities web page in Club Clinic.

How to Make T&T Work for Everyone: A Guide to Working with Special-Needs Children

Find it: Children with Disabilities web page in Club Clinic.

T&T Verse Labels

Find it: Children with Disabilities web page in Club Clinic.

Inclusion Tool Kit

Find it: Online store at clcnetwork.org

Questions? Contact us at leadershiptraining@awana.org.