



# Tips on Teaching Students Who Have Learning Disabilities

by Mary Ann Strauss

**T**hese tips may help you meet the needs of your students who have learning disabilities.

- ⇒ Assign a helper to the student.
  - ⇒ Place the student where he can see and hear without straining. Print all words in big, bold, black letters.
  - ⇒ Place the student by others who will accept him.
  - ⇒ Learn about the student's particular learning difficulties. This can be done by talking to the parents or doing research.
  - ⇒ Get to know the student personally. Talk to him regularly and make him feel welcome.
  - ⇒ Encourage the student. Find something the student has done well and compliment him. Observe him during song time, the lesson, and memory work.
- ⇒ Tell the Bible story using short, clear sentences with one or two pictures. Then elaborate by building on each picture.
  - ⇒ If the student cannot verbalize, review by letting him give



- ⇒ a visual answer. For example, allow him to act out the story with dolls, pictures, or his body.
- ⇒ Keep the memory verse short and use words in today's language.

- ⇒ Break the key verse into short segments for learning. Then repeat, repeat, and repeat.
- ⇒ Help the student participate in class by asking questions he can answer and letting him act out the stories.
- ⇒ Educate your class in understanding and helping the student to participate.
- ⇒ Be kind and caring with the parents. Assure them their child is a welcome and important part of your class.
- ⇒ Enlist parents' help with the lesson and memory work.
  - ⇒ Be sensitive to the student's limitations, and assign responsibilities accordingly.

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### Questions for Further Study—

1. If you have children with disabilities in your class(es), how do you help them feel included?
2. How do you help them understand the lesson?
3. What steps do you take to teach the other children how to include children with disabilities?
4. Evaluate how you communicate with the parent(s) of a child with disabilities. How can you improve?



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