

# Communication strategies for an inclusive church



These notes are taken from the power point shown at the talk. For a list of links and resources see [www.reachoutasc.com/churches](http://www.reachoutasc.com/churches)

## Barriers to accessing the church, the Bible and peer relationships

- **PHYSICAL** - motor or sensory difficulties in moving around, being co-ordinated, unable to sit still, medical conditions....
- **SENSORY** - too much or too little - avoiding, seeking or being withdrawn. The environment can cause overload, behaviour responses, meltdown.
- **LANGUAGE** - can't read, can't speak well or at all, don't understand what you mean, literal, slow processing of verbal information and instructions.
- **LANGUAGE** - biblical and 'church' language can be very figurative and not used in daily life.
- **LANGUAGE** - we give out lots of leaflets and things to read.
- **SOCIAL** - difference and gap between them and their peer grows wider as they get older.
- **COGNITIVE** - understanding concepts about every day things can be impaired/delayed, can be very concrete, not understand abstract - so faith concepts too.. "how can I know God if I can't see him?"
- **US** - if they can't learn the way we teach, then let us teach the way they learn...

## 10 Top tips

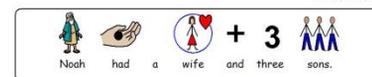


### 1. Communication

- KISS - Keep it Short and Simple.
- Don't use too many words.
- Give processing time - slow down.

### 2. Visuals

- Are more permanent and help understanding, order, recall and memory.
- Can illustrate difficult concepts.



### 3. Active Involvement

- Drama
- Activities that enable them to contribute e.g. prayer trees.
- Sensory story telling.



### 4. Don't rush

- Less content can be done more thoroughly.
- Time to play and discover.
- Time for children to contribute and reflect.



### 5. Key learning

- One thing you want them to learn - in one sentence. (try it!)
- Focussed Bible truth.
- Repeat often - turn into a refrain.



### 6. Use signing

- Learn key signs. Take photos of children doing them and have on the wall. (Makaton, BSL, Signalong)
- Learn signing songs and prayers.

### 7. Puppets

- Puppets can be contemporary or biblical characters.



### 8. Explain Religious language

- Many children can be confused and literal. Explain carefully and regularly eg. SIN = ignoring God.

### 9. Songs

- Songs can teach key Gospel concepts. Choose carefully and examine the language. Too noisy / busy can be overwhelming.

### 10. High expectations of the gospel

- PRAY
- It is God's work to save.
- Every part of the Bible tells us something about Jesus. Tell them that.
- Psalm 139

