

Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. (1 Timothy 4:15)

From 1st October 2004 churches will have to 'make reasonable adjustments' to their premises to overcome barriers which make it difficult or impossible for people with disabilities to have access to their buildings and services.

However, the legislation doesn't only help us to think about ramps and toilets, it helps us to focus on all we can do to include everyone, adult or child, who has a disability, in our services and meetings.

What would Jesus do?

Study the following passages and draw out some principles from the practice of Jesus.

- Matthew 8:1-4; Luke 5:17-26
- Luke 13:10-13; Luke 14:12-14
- John 5:1-9



What should we do?

Discuss the following:

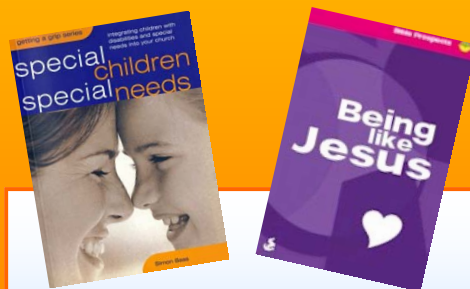
- Our attitudes
- Our terminology
- Our practice
- Our programmes
- Our language (Do we use too many abstract terms? Can we sign to songs?)
- Our use of text (drawings help, lower case, bold clear fonts in size 14-18)
- The need for simplicity, repetition, routine
- One-to-one support (a buddy system)
- Some training.



What did David do?

Study the following passage and notice the dignity which David gave to this man who was disabled.

- 2 Samuel 9



Essential reading

- *Special Children, Special Needs* by Simon Bass. Church House Publishing ISBN 0-7151-4999-7
- *Carpenter's Kids and Roofbreaker Guides* from Through The Roof, PO Box 353, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5WS
- *Bible PROSPECTS*, a series of Bible Reading Notes for people with a learning disability.