

# ***Different Dream Parenting: A Practical Guide To Raising a Child With Special Needs***

**Jolene Philo**

1. Why did you decide to write a parenting book for the special needs market?
2. How can parents become effective advocates for their children?
3. What are some of the questions that the advocate should ask the professionals?
4. What and how much should a child be told about the diagnosis?
5. Why is it important for a parent-advocate to be a good communicator?
6. What can parents do to research their child's condition and available resources?
7. Do you have any tips for dealing with the insurance companies?
8. Where can parents find out about financial assistance?
9. How important do you feel are prayer, faith and a dependence on God?
10. How crucial is it to have an emotional support network at home when a child is in the hospital?
11. What are some things the parents can do to foster care team unity in the hospital?
12. What are some practical things that make a child's hospital stay easier?
13. What would help the parent during a hospital stay?
14. Why is dealing with the grief and guilt that comes along with having a special needs child so important?
15. How are the siblings of a special needs child affected?
16. What are the stresses on marriage for the parents of a special needs child?
17. What part can volunteer coordinators have in keeping the home running smoothly?
18. Where can parents find resources and support in the death of a child?
19. Do you have any thoughts you'd like to share on raising a survivor and planning for the future?

## **About the Author**

Jolene Philo was a teacher for 25 years and began writing in 2003. Since then she's published articles for on parenting a special needs child and preparing children for a hospital stay. She is the author *A Different Dream for My Child* and speaks at regional and national parenting and special needs ministry conferences. She and her husband live in Boone, Iowa and have two married children.