

Every Child Welcome Summary and Interview Questions

Jesus set a high standard when He said “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” The call is not limited to children who will sit quietly at His feet and listen, who color between the lines, who raise their hands and wait to be called upon, and who work at grade level. Children’s ministries are responsible to be ready to bring children with disabilities to Jesus’ feet too. *Every Child Welcome* is the guide for leaders and volunteers to assist in purposeful planning and skill development for a ministry inclusive of children with unique needs.

Experienced children’s ministry leaders, and parents of special-needs children themselves, the authors are superbly equipped to offer a thoughtful, thorough approach to creating a positive environment for children—one where all children will be able to digest the important concepts being taught. For leaders and volunteers, *Every Child Welcome* will provide the knowledge and tools to:

- create a welcoming environment before kids arrive
- help children learn more effectively by connecting new information to what they already know
- reinforce the main idea of a lesson, building background knowledge and reviewing important concepts
- supplement instruction with hands-on activities to increase attention and participation
- reinforce and wrap up an activity effectively

1. What inspired you to write *Every Child Welcome*? How did you come to partner with Katie Weatherbee in the creative process?
2. Why is it important for churches to create an inclusive culture for kids with special needs and their families?
3. What changes have you seen over the years in churches welcoming children with special needs?
4. What are some simple strategies children’s ministry volunteers can implement to foster inclusion?
5. What strategies do you suggest for maintaining an inclusive ministry as children become teens?
6. What key advice can you offer to a church looking to begin an inclusive ministry for children with special needs?
7. What can churches do to support parents of sibling with special needs as well as the person with special needs?

