

Specific Phrases and Examples

by Rychelle Jordan in Primary Leadership Meeting, 11/7/15

I have been in a few different wards where there were children with special needs. I quickly wanted to share a few experiences that I have had and observed.

1. One of the moms was my really good friend. Her son has Asperger's, and was really high functioning. He had a lot of sensory sensitivities. Primary was really difficult for him. One difficult Sunday, a dad in the ward was walking by and took him out and walked the halls for one hour talking Star Wars with him.

2. I was talking to a teacher with a student that has autism. The student was new in the ward and to get to know her and to overcome the fear of having this child as a student, she decided to go to their home. When she went to the home, she realized that the child was smart! The child knew all the primary songs, she could listen and obey. The teacher realized that this child was just a child. She could love her like she would any other child. She was a precious child of God, too! And the idea of teaching her seemed a lot less intimidating at that point.

Love them, get to know them, and it will help you as you help them.

Here are a few phrases and ideas a mother uses to that might help her child.

If they are really wiggly, use phrases like:

- "Show me ready."
- "Quiet Mouth, quiet hands, quiet feet"

When antsy and ready to change activities:

- "First _____, then _____."

Example: First music, then class. Or, first class, then mommy.

Stay calm. We respond to the emotions that are around us.

If over stimulated, take them away from the stimulation. Let them calm down.