Resource List:
Special Needs & Disabilities

The resources listed below align with Focus on the Family’s philosophy and mission. We trust you will find them helpful. If you would like to obtain any of these items, call us toll free at 1-800-A-FAMILY, or visit our online store at store.focusonthefamily.com. (The information is regularly updated, but there is still the possibility that an item originally available from Focus on the Family might now be unavailable.) You may also be interested in the content posted on our website at focusonthefamily.com.

Included

Books
Broadcasts
Resource Lists and Q&As
Referrals

Books

**Autism Spectrum Disorders: What Every Parent Needs to Know** by Alan Rosenblatt (2012) • 9781581106510 •
“Expert guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics”

**A Caregiver’s Survival Guide: How to Stay Healthy When Your Loved One Is Sick** by Kay Marshall Strom (2000) • 9780830822300 •
Whether dealing with an elderly parent, a spouse with Alzheimer’s, or a child with disabilities, learn to stay healthy and take care of your spiritual and emotional needs.

**Bible Promises for Parents of Children With Special Needs** by Amy Mason (2017) • 9781496417275 •
“Hidden within the pages of Scripture are beautiful stories of people with special needs… These stories offer hope because God notices and pursues you and your child too, and he walks with you on this awesome adventure.”

**Dancing With Max: A Mother and Son Who Broke Free** by Emily Colson Boehme with Chuck Colson (2012) • 9780310000198 •
This is the true story of Emily’s autistic son, Max, and the battles they’ve fought to win unexpected joy. Emily and her father, Chuck, share their discovery that Max’s disability reveals who they are—far more than it defines who he is.

**Empowering Your Child Who Has Special Needs** by Debbie Salter Goodwin (2006) • 9780834122581 •
Goodwin offers encouragement and strategies to help you and your child build a life rooted in God’s truth, joy, and love.

**I Am Potential** by Patrick Henry Hughes (2009) • 9780738213651 •
Born with a rare genetic disorder that left him blind and physically disabled, Hughes was also blessed with musical talent. Now a nationally known pianist, singer, and trumpeter who has performed at the Grand Ole Opry and the Kennedy Center, he recounts the lessons at the heart of his faith and success.

**In Jesse’s Shoes** by Beverly Lewis (2007) • 9780764203138 • fiction
In this sensitive story, Jesse’s sister struggles to understand her brother—and the kids who make fun of him. This book will encourage families to appreciate and befriend children with special needs.

**Life, In Spite of Me: Extraordinary Hope After a Fatal Choice** by Kristen Anderson (2011) • 9781601423825 •
Recounting her miraculous survival of a suicide attempt, Anderson shares how her faith in God helped her overcome severe depression and shame, as well as the challenges of permanent physical disability.

**The Long Awakening** by Lindsey O’Connor (2013) • 9780800718763 •
Due to complications during childbirth, O’Connor was placed in a medically induced coma for 47 days. Her memoir shares what her family endured and her own difficult journey of healing.
The Out-of-Sync Child by Carol Stock Kranowitz (2006) • 9780399531651 • “Recognizing and Coping with Sensory Processing Disorder”

A Place of Healing: Wrestling With the Mysteries of Suffering, Pain, and God’s Sovereignty by Joni Eareckson Tada (2010) • 9780781412544 •
For more than forty years, Tada has been confined to a wheelchair as the result of a diving accident that left her a quadriplegic. Here she shares her ongoing struggle with physical pain and the mystery of suffering in light of a God who heals.

Ruthless: Knowing the God Who Fights for You by Bo Stern (2014) • 9781612916026 •
Stern delves into Scripture to explore God’s character—so you can be confident of Who fights your battles.

Still I Will Praise by Renée Bondi (2012) • 9781619580138 •
Bondi, a quadriplegic, shares stories from others who have journeyed through heartrending circumstances, relying on God for strength, hope, and a renewed perspective of His love.

When God Doesn’t Make Sense by Dr. James Dobson (1993) • 9781414371153 •
Encountering difficulties in life can challenge our faith in God—and when questions are left unanswered, we may feel that God has abandoned us. This book speaks to those who have been left confused and disillusioned by life’s problems.

Your 100-Day Prayer: The Transforming Power of Actively Waiting on God by John Snyder (2011) • 9781400203406 •
What does persistent, humble prayer look like?

Communicating Without Words (Rhea Zakich) • 9781624713880 •
When her doctor told her she wouldn’t be able to speak for several months because of a throat condition, Zakich faced unexpected emotional and spiritual struggles. Here she shares the important lessons she learned about true communication.

Cultivating Joy in Family Life — I, II (Jeremy, Kimberly, Kayla, and Josh Woodhouse) • 9781624713323 •
The Woodhouse family describes daughter Kayla’s struggle with a rare nerve disorder and explains how they’ve learned to trust God and cultivate joy in the midst of difficult circumstances.

Dealing with a Disability in Marriage (Ken Tada and Joni Eareckson Tada) • 9781624711039 •
Every marriage has trials, but when disability is added to the mix, faith and commitment are tested to the core. The Tadas share about the joys and struggles during their more than 30 years of marriage as they have looked to the Lord for strength in the midst of Joni’s quadriplegia and breast cancer.

Finding Your True Potential in Life — I, II (Patrick Henry Hughes, Patrick John Hughes) • 9781624713958 •
Born with complex birth defects, Hughes shares how he’s overcome enormous obstacles—and how his faith, hard work, devoted parents, and a passion for music helped him reach his full potential.

Glorifying God Through the Obstacles in Marriage — I, II (Mike and Renée Bondi) • 9781624715549 •
The Bondis share their story of love and commitment in the midst of an inexplicable tragedy which left Renée a quadriplegic. They tell of Mike’s devotion to keep his engagement promise, their emotional journey of beginning married life with Renée in a wheelchair, and their trust in God’s sovereignty.

God’s Healing Presence in My Life (Joni Eareckson Tada) • 9781624714399 •
When Tada broke her neck at 17, she was confused, angry, and bitter toward God until Christian friends helped her begin to take small steps toward faith. Here she shares stories about some of the people she’s met while ministering to those with disabilities.

I Will Never… — I, II (Jane Bateman) • 9781624717658 •
Bateman shares her journey to faith; the difficulty of raising a disabled son who later died as a young man; and the ultimate glory she gives to God—who promises never to leave us, especially in our seasons of deepest despair.
Living Joyously – I, II (Reverend David Ring) • 9781624714764 •
Ring was born with cerebral palsy and lost both parents to cancer by the time he was 14. Feeling hopeless and unloved, Ring wanted to die, too—until he experienced the saving love of Jesus. He encourages others with the hope and truth that we can overcome life’s adversities through Christ.

Living With ADD (Ben Glenn) • 9781624715006 •
As a child, Glenn felt rejection due to his dyslexia and ADD—but then he learned about God’s love and acceptance. Here he offers the encouraging reminder that no matter what difficulties we may face God has a wonderful plan for each of our lives.

A Man Called Norman – I, II (Mike Adkins) • 9781624716614 •
Norman was a social misfit and a recluse. Virtually everybody in his small town made fun of him except his neighbor Mike Adkins. Here, Mike shares the humorous and poignant story of his efforts to befriend Norman and share the Gospel with him—and he inspires listeners to consider how they might share the love of Christ with those who seem unlovable.

More Than Meets the Eye (Joan Brock) • 9781624712791 •
Within three weeks’ time, Brock inexplicably went blind—and soon after, her husband died of cancer. Here, she shares her journey through these struggles and how she has been comforted by the support of family, friends, and God.

Our Family’s Unexpected Journey – I, II (Joe and Cindy Ferrini) • 9781624711268 •
The Ferrinis share their story of raising a son with cerebral palsy and mental disabilities—and how parenting Joey has strengthened their faith, their marriage, and their family.

Overcoming Adversity (Dan Miller) • 9781624719592 •
In a pre-recorded message, Miller shares how his dreams for the future were shattered when poliomyelitis left him paralyzed within a week. He regained partial use of his left arm and learned to walk with intense physical therapy and surgery. He became a P.E. teacher and elementary principal, played golf and basketball, learned to pilot a plane, and played the guitar in a band. He reminds listeners that joy is a choice and that we must be persistent in reaching for our goals—and he encourages teachers to take advantage of the opportunities they have to influence students to reach for their dreams.

Overcoming the Obstacles of Cerebral Palsy – I-III (Dr. Tyler Sexton, Mrs. Lisa Sexton, Dr. Jared Pingleton) • 9781624715518 •
Day One: Born at 28 weeks, Tyler wasn’t given long to live. But he survived—only to be diagnosed at 18 months with cerebral palsy. Mother and son, Lisa and Tyler, share about parenting a child with special needs and the wonderful work of God in Tyler’s life to overcome obstacles and eventually become a medical doctor.

Day Two: The Sexton’s story continues with additional emphasis on how Lisa and her husband found creative ways to deal with Tyler’s “Why me?” questions, how they balanced their marriage and another child, and how they learned to trust in God.

Day Three: Lisa is joined by Dr. Jared Pingleton as they discuss the effects of traumatic events. Lisa suffered debilitating depression, which lead to a suicide attempt. And Jared’s family experienced turmoil surrounding their son’s diagnosis of leukemia and difficult treatment.

The Power of Persistent Prayer (Dr. John Snyder) • 9781624718885 •
Snyder shares about a vision problem that has limited his activities for the past 40 years—and has helped him grow in faith. Whether God’s answer to our prayer is yes, no, or wait, be encouraged by the truth that He knows what’s best for us.

Raising and Reaching the Deaf for Christ (Marshall Lawrence) • 9781624714221 •
Lawrence, founder of Silent Blessings Deaf Ministries, describes how he adjusted to his daughter’s hearing impairment, why the church has difficulty reaching the deaf community, and the rift that can develop in families when a child suffers from hearing loss.

Special Needs Children: How the Church Can Help – I, II (Dr. Lon and Mrs. Brenda Solomon) • 9781624719950 •
Parenting a child with special needs can either tear a family apart or bring it closer together. For the Solomons, coming to terms with their daughter’s disabilities and surrendering their situation to God improved their parenting.

Surviving a Coma: My Miraculous Awakening – I, II (Tim and Lindsey O’Connor) • 9781624716768 •
Tim and Lindsey describe the trauma and recovery Lindsey experienced from a post-birth complication where she nearly bled to death and was in a medically-induced coma for about 2 months—a coma from which she was not expected to survive.

The Unexpected Joys of Raising an Autistic Child – I, II (Chuck Colson, Emily Colson) • 9781624718670 •
Chuck and daughter Emily discuss Emily’s book, Dancing With Max: A Mother Who Broke Free, about raising her autistic son. She determined that, with God’s help, she and Max would live each day with joy—even in moments of struggle and uncertainty.
The Value of a Life Worth Living (Joni Eareckson Tada) • 9781624712685
Joni shares the story of Kim, a young woman who had Lou Gehrig’s disease and wrestled with end-of-life questions. Joni recounts her encouragement that Kim seek God’s wisdom in living her remaining days in a way that would count for eternity.

Resource Lists

- focusonthefamily.com/family-q-and-a/resources-and-referrals
  Find recommended resources and referrals listed by topic, including:
  - Comfort and Encouragement • RL003
  - Fostering or Adopting Children From Difficult Backgrounds • RL012B
  - Materials for the Visually Impaired • RL042

Q&As

- focusonthefamily.com/family-q-and-a
  Browse our Q&As for advice and encouragement.

Focus on the Family Counseling Consultation Line
If you’re struggling and need someone to talk to, Focus on the Family offers a free phone counseling consultation with a licensed counselor. Call 1-855-771-HELP (4357), Monday through Friday, 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM (MT). Our staff may need to call you back, but they’d love to speak with you. You can also search our directory for a licensed Christian counselor in your area [https://ccn.thedirectorywidget.com].

The Autism Society of America
4340 East-West Highway, Suite 350
Bethesda, MD  20814
800/328-8476
autism-society.org
  - This organization provides parents, professionals, and the general public with information and referrals about autism.

Bibles for the Blind & Visually Handicapped International
3228 East Rosehill Avenue
Terre Haute, IN  47805
812/466-4899
biblesfortheblind.org
  - This group provides Bibles in Braille free of charge to those who qualify. They also offer Braille tracts and a daily devotional guide for the deaf or visually impaired.

Blind Children’s Center
4120 Marathon Street
Los Angeles, CA  90029
323/664-2153
blindchildrenscenter.org
  - This organization works primarily with blind children from birth through elementary school.
**Camp Barnabas**
P.O. Box 3200  
Springfield, MO  65808  
417/476-2565  
campbarnabas.org  
- This group reaches out to disabled children and teens.

**CARE Ministries**  
Christian Association for Rehabilitation and Education Ministries, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1830  
Starkville, MS  39760  
800/336-2232  
careministries.org  
- Dedicated to linking blind and disabled people with existing community resources, CARE also provides training and technical assistance to churches.

**Deaf Missions**  
21199 Greenview Road  
Council Bluffs, IA  51503  
712/322-5493 — Voice/TTY  
deafmissions.com  
- Established to train workers to bring the Gospel to those who are deaf, this organization offers Bible camps and college extension classes.

**Endurance (Jan and Dave Dravecky)**  
P.O. Box 631280  
Littleton, CO  80163  
303/962-7595  
endurance.org  
- Endurance ministers to suffering people—especially those who have experienced cancer, amputation, and depression—with resources for encouragement, comfort, and hope through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Inspiration Ministries (Christian League for the Handicapped)**  
N2270 State Road 67  
Walworth, WI  53184  
262/275-6131  
InspirationMinistries.org  
- This is a residential community and respite care provider for adults with disabilities. Their work center, resale shop, special events, and volunteer opportunities give people with disabilities a chance to build friendships and serve the community.

**JAF Ministries (Joni and Friends) (Joni Eareckson Tada)**  
P.O. Box 3333  
Agoura Hills, CA  91376  
818/707-5664—Phone  
818/707-9707—TTY  
joniardfriends.org  
- This Christian ministry unites disabled people and local congregations through evangelism and service. Resources and referrals for families with disabled members are available, as well as a deaf ministries outreach.

**NATHHAN / CHASK**  
P.O. Box 310  
Moyie Springs, ID  83845  
800/267-6426  
nathhan.com — Website for homeschooling  
chask.org — Website for adverse prenatal diagnosis and adoption referrals  
- NATHHAN encourages homeschool families with special needs children by way of numerous resources. CHASK’s mission is to find Christian homes for children with special needs.
National Association for Down Syndrome
1460 Renaissance Drive, Suite 405
Park Ridge, IL  60068
630/325-9112
nads.org
- This group offers resources, conferences, and an online discussion forum about Down syndrome. They also provide individualized services specifically for the Chicago metropolitan area.

National Captioning Institute
3725 Concorde Parkway, Suite 100
Chantilly, VA  20151
703/917-7600—Phone/TTY
ncicap.org
- This secular group provides information about tele-caption decoders, which pick up closed captioned messages for the hearing impaired on videos and television.

National Federation of the Blind
200 East Wells Street at Jernigan Place
Baltimore, MD  21230
410/659-9314
nfb.org
- This national group helps integrate the blind into society by removing legal, economic, and social discrimination — and by educating the public.

National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
Library of Congress
Washington, DC  20542
202/707-5100—Phone
202/707-0744—TDD
loc.gov/nls
- Through a national network of cooperating libraries, the National Library Service administers a free library program of Braille and audio materials.

Shepherds Ministries
1805 15th Avenue
Union Grove, WI  53182
262/878-5620
shepherdsministries.org
- Shepherds Ministries is a faith-based residential, vocational, and educational facility for adults with intellectual disabilities.

Shepherds College
1805 15th Avenue
Union Grove, WI  53182
262/878-5620
shepherdscollege.edu
- Shepherds College is an accredited, faith-based, three-year post-secondary school for young adults with intellectual disabilities.

Silent Blessings Deaf Ministries
1201 East 5th Street, Suite 11
Anderson, IN  46012
877/ 367-3323
silentblessings.org
- This group provides resources to bring spiritual healing to deaf and hard-of-hearing people and their families.
The Stuttering Foundation of America
P.O. Box 11749
Memphis, TN  38111
800/992-9392
stutteringhelp.org
•  This organization is dedicated to preventing and treating stuttering.

Tourette Syndrome Association
42-40 Bell Boulevard
Bayside, NY  11361
718/224-2999
tsa-usa.org
•  This national organization educates patients and their families about Tourette Syndrome and provides support groups.

Triangle Cross Ranch
36045 County Road 51
Galeton, CO  80622
970/454-2219
triangledcrossranch.org
•  Triangle Cross Ranch provides a home for the developmentally disabled — where acceptance, security, and self-esteem can become a reality.

Referrals to secular organizations dealing with specialized areas of knowledge shouldn’t be read as an indication that their stances necessarily align with Focus on the Family’s perspective in all areas.