



A Child of God

When parents receive a diagnosis of a disability for their child, it is a traumatic life-changing experience. Whether you hear the news while your child is in utero, soon after birth, or anytime during their developmental years, it is a time when Faith plays an important role toward acceptance and hope.

- † Pray. Let God know your feelings. It's understandable to be angry with God, but, above all, praise God for your child's life.
- † Remember your son or daughter is a gift from God and is a precious person beyond any disability or condition. You will soon be able to recognize the special gifts that are your child's alone.
- † Grieve the loss of the child for whom you had planned, while caring for the unique child that is forever yours.
- † Introduce your child to your faith community. Take your child to church. Request accommodations as needed. Celebrate their Sacraments of Initiation within your parish.
- † Ask for help. Children with intellectual/developmental disabilities may require more of your energy and time.
- † Don't feel obligated to explain your child's disability to anyone, unless it feels right to you.
- † Welcome the help of professionals and reflect on what they have to offer you and your child. Choose only those who respect life in all forms.
- † Find and talk with other families who have children with similar concerns. Experienced parents can offer understanding support and referrals to disability-specific resources that will help you find the grace to fulfill your parental vocation.

Resources:

Peer support for prenatal diagnoses - www.benotafraid.net

Thank you Catholic Diocese of Toledo-Ohio, for sharing the original document with us.

