

## Disability Ministries

# How to Stay Connected With the Special Needs Family

1. **Get to know the family** – phone calls, meet one on one
  
2. **Become familiar with their needs** - read about the child's diagnosis or disability
  
3. **Develop an understanding /appreciation for some of the daily struggles:**
  - feeling of grief/continual loss
  - social situations are difficult
  - having to be a constant advocate
  - issues of friendship
  - being a good parent to siblings
  - maintaining a strong marriage under stressful circumstances
  
4. **Pray specifically for their needs**
  
5. **Be there in times of crisis:**
  - medical emergencies/ procedures
  - loss of health care benefits/ loss of respite/ care services
  - problems at school/ with school system
  - new diagnosis/ coming to terms with the facts
  - ongoing worry of “how will I care for my child?”
  
6. **Find ways for families to become an integral part of the church:**
  - provide Stephen ministers or partners in prayer
  - set up a prayer support group for special needs families
  - provide childcare for adult church functions
  - provide volunteers so that children can participate in
  - Sunday school and other church programs

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Email [mdd@covchurch.org](mailto:mdd@covchurch.org) for more information



The Evangelical Covenant Church