



Lesson 8

Special Needs Helps

EMOTICONS

Materials

Resources CD Lesson 5 Feelings Discs printable file, *Resources* sheet 8 Feelings poster

Teaching about emotions and how to process them in a healthy way is a goal we have for all our children—typically developing or developmentally delayed. Additionally, as teachers, we never know what experiences children may have brought to church with them that are making their day more difficult. For children with special needs, even routine changes in seasonal wardrobe can make getting to church a difficult procedure. Did Mom buy new clothes that seem itchy or smelly? Is a new pair of shoes so uncomfortable that the child cannot focus? Maybe a change in the teaching rotation for the summer months has a child feeling unorganized and anxious.

Both the Feeling Discs and the Feelings poster are excellent for helping children with language delays to communicate their feelings while in the classroom. Consider posting the Feelings Discs or Feelings poster prominently in your classroom. When children become fretful during transitions or activities, encourage them to use the resources and show you how they are feeling. Or have a circle activity with all children, and allow them to use the materials to share about their feelings. Don't forget to share your own feelings and model for the children how they can ask God to help them with their feelings.