



SAINT CATHERINE CENTER FOR *Special Needs*

Parent Interview

Instructions and Form for Catechists

Adapted by the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) Autism Task Force from CATECHESIS/ATTENDS MASS PARTICIPATION: GETTING TO KNOW THE PERSON

The Religious Education/Faith Formation Parent Interview

For a Person with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

When speaking with parents...

- Present an overall attitude of openness and a desire to be supportive.
- As you do with any new family, it is good to get a sense of the role that faith plays in their life. Remember, also, though, if they have not been able to attend Mass regularly, it may be because they are very de-energized from dealing with disability in their family. A welcoming community can go a long way to helping them participate more.
- Let the parent(s) know that in order to provide as positive an experience as possible, certain information is very important. It is also helpful to determine the program, materials and behavioral approaches used that are the right choice for now.
- The following form is for the interviewer to use for recording responses of the parent.

It is important to recognize and respect the confidential nature of such a document. *Again, let them know that the reason for requesting it is to improve the quality of the experience for their child. A conversation with the person's teacher can be very helpful. Also, often teachers want to help. Particularly as s/he works on Mass attendance and preparation for Sacraments in Church, there are ways the teacher can facilitate the development of Mass behaviors.*

Religious Education/Faith Formation

Parent Interview Form

Name of Interviewer: _____ Date: _____

Parent(s)/Caregiver: _____

Name of child: _____ Age: _____

Contact Information

Preferred telephone number(s): _____

Home email: _____

Address: _____

Parish: _____ School: _____

Interview Questions

Do you attend Mass with your child? If yes, explain the experience please. If not, why?

What is your child's diagnosis and how do you think it relates to attending Mass as a family?

What are his/her special interests?

What are his/her special gifts?

What are his/her challenges?

Describe his/her social relationships?

What methods of communication are used?

What have been effective learning strategies?

What are good motivators?

Are there any inappropriate behaviors?

What are possible triggers of inappropriate behaviors?

What are helpful responses to inappropriate behavior?

What is helpful for holding his/her attention?

What recommendations are made on his/her IEP?

Does she/he have any diet or environmental issues?

Does she/he have any medical issues to be aware of?

When there are other children in the family... How does s/he relate to your other children and how do they relate to him/her?

Is there anything else you would like to share about your son/daughter?