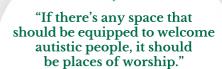
# The Do's and Don'ts

of Making Your Place of Worship Inclusive for Autistic Children

Below are some common occurrences — and remedies — for the statements, thoughts, and actions that parents of autistic children often experience at places of worship.



— Tonya Nash, Founder of the Autism Faith Network



# - Don't -

# Say

"Can you keep your child quiet?"

## **Think**

"This child is disrupting the service."

# Say

"This child can't learn."

### **Think**

"This child should not be in our congregation."

### Sav

"If your child can't handle being here, then keep them home."

### Think

"Why can't this child just behave?"

### **Think**

"This behavior isn't Christ-like."

### **Think**

"Why can't this child just pay attention?"

# Say

- Instead

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"How can we accommodate your child in our services?"

### **Think**

"I'd like to get to know this family, so we can include this child in our fellowship."

## Say

"It's all of our responsibility to teach this child the ways of God."

### **Think**

"All of us can participate in our own unique way."

## Say

"How can we make the service more inclusive for your child?"

### Think

"There may be something this child is experiencing that I am unaware of."

### Remember

"Christ was often ridiculed for fellowshipping with people who were different."

### Think

"What might help hold this child's attention?"





