

# RESILIENCE

*... ability in disability*

## SPECIAL NEEDS

MAGAZINE

### HEALTHCARE

INSIGHTS AND UPDATES

STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORTING  
CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

# TIPS

FOR RAISING AWARENESS  
IN THE COMMUNITY

# SUCCESS STORIES

OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL  
NEEDS OVERCOMING  
CHALLENGES.

## HEALTHCARE

INSIGHTS AND  
UPDATES

# STORIES

FROM PARENTS  
RAISING CHILDREN  
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

2025

Valentine  
Edition

# THE HAND OF GOD

1. Lord, give our children the ability to make good decisions and discern between right and wrong.

Philippians 1:9-10

2. Father, guide our children in their purpose and destiny. May they fulfill Your divine plans for their lives. Jeremiah 29:11

3. Lord, give our children strength to resist temptation and stand firm in their faith, even when faced with challenges.

1 Corinthians 10:13

4. Father, disconnect our children from ungodly friendships and bad influences. Surround them with godly and positive relationships.

Proverbs 13:20

5. Father, grant our children wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. May they grow in discernment and make godly choices in life.

James 1:5

6. Lord, give our children understanding and excellence in their education and all their endeavors. Let them be diligent and successful. - Daniel 1:17

7. Lord, plant in our children a deep love for You and a hunger for Your Word. May they delight in reading and obeying the Scriptures.

Psalms 119:11

8. Lord, give our children hearts full of love, compassion, and a willingness to help others in need. Proverbs 19:17

9. Father, instill in our children a heart of obedience, kindness, humility, and respect for authority. May they walk in integrity. Ephesians 6:1

10. Lord, let our children find favor with You and with people. Open doors of opportunity for them in every area of their lives. Luke



2:52

11. Lord, teach our children to be grateful and content in every situation. Let them always have a thankful heart. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

12. Lord, give our children hearts full of love, compassion, and a willingness to help others in need. Proverbs 19:17

13. Cover our children with Your divine protection and keep them safe from harm, danger, and evil influences. Psalm 91:11

14. Lord, draw our children closer to You. May they know You personally, accept Jesus as their Savior, and live according to Your will.

Isaiah 54:13

15. In Lord, fill our children's lives with joy, peace, and contentment. May they always find their happiness in You.

By Her Excellency, Deaconess  
**Molewa Hammed,**  
Wife Of The Former Governor Of Kwara State.

# Welcome Message From The **Executive Director,** **Glory To Glory Community Development Foundation**

**W**orking in love is profitable unto all things, for we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us all. - Ephesians 2:10

I'm Olusola Adewusi, CEO of Glory-to-Glory Supermart and Cinema International. In 2006, God gave me a vision to host a Valentine's banquet for special people. Fulfilling this assignment has been a blessing, allowing me to discover the treasures of real joy and abundant living.

I'm driven by a passion to demonstrate unconditional love to these special individuals. God is using me to serve and assist them in various ways, putting smiles on their faces. The Lord amplify my voice to serve and speak for them. To Him be all the glory!

You're warmly welcome to another edition of this annual program. Get ready to experience the Mighty Hand of God Which will bring about on imaginable Miracles.

Let's exercise our faith, for it's the prerequisite to seeing God's glory.

## **Sola Adewusi**

CEO, Glory-to-Glory Supermart  
and Cinema International

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## Desk of; Deputy Governor of Osun State

His Excellency **PRINCE KOLAWOLE ADEGBOYEGBA ADEWUSI**

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# THE WONDERS OF THE HAND OF GOD THROUGH PRAISE

Brief introduction to the theme of this year's event

**A**s humans, we often find ourselves in situations that leave us feeling helpless, hopeless, and uncertain about the future. But what if I told you that there's a powerful tool at your disposal, one that can shift the atmosphere, change your perspective, and unlock the miraculous hand of God in your life? That tool is praise.

Praising God is more than just a ritual or a habit; it's a spiritual discipline that has the power to transform your life and circumstances. When you praise God, you're not just expressing gratitude; you're inviting His presence, His power, and His miraculous hand into your life.

The Bible is replete with examples of individuals who experienced the miraculous hand of God as a result of their praise. In 2 Chronicles 20, King Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah faced a seemingly insurmountable enemy, but instead of panicking, they were instructed to praise God and they did. As they lifted up their voice in praise, the Lord set ambushes against their enemies, and they were victorious.

In Acts 16, Paul and Silas were imprisoned and facing certain death, but instead of despairing, they chose to praise God. As they did, the earth shook, the prison doors opened, and they were set free.

These stories demonstrate the amazing power of praise. They also show clearly what the Hand of God can perform when you praise Him.

So, how can you experience the miraculous hand of God through praise? Here are a few practical tips:

1. Make praise a habit on a daily basis.
2. Be specific about what you are thankful for.
3. Use scripture to fuel your praise
4. Praise in the midst of challenges

In conclusion, when you praise God, you will see His hands at work in your life. You'll experience the miraculous, the impossible, and the transformative power of God. So, start praising today, and watch how His marvelous hands begin to work wonders in your life.

Tobi Olorunsola  
President, House of David (Davidite Network)

Personal Assistant to the wife of the Deputy Governor of Osun State.

Living a lifestyle of praise



# SUCCESS STORIES OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS OVERCOMING CHALLENGES



**Adebolu Eluwade**

**A**t 18, a road accident left me paraplegic, altering my world forever. Yet, in the depths of pain, I found purpose and God's presence turned my struggles into a mission. At university, I built a support network for students with disabilities, transforming challenges into advocacy.

My career in marketing and communication was another leap of faith. Through uncertainties, God's hand opened doors, leading me to roles that amplified my impact. In disability rights advocacy, I witnessed His favor as laws changed and lives were transformed.

My journey is proof that when God's hand is on your life, miracles follow.



**Mutiu Toheeb Oluwafemi**

**I**'m Mutiu Toheeb Oluwafemi, a visually impaired student at OAU, and God has been faithful every step of the way. He blessed me with amazing friends who act as my eyes, cheer me on, and push me to do my best. Their kindness is a true reflection of God's love.

God also works through Glory to Glory Supermarket and its owner, Olusola Adewusi, whose support has eased my journey. Thanks to her, and the help of Mr. and Mrs. Olawuni, I can focus on my studies without worry.

My story at OAU is one of God's grace, and I give Him all the praise. Thank you, Glory to Glory!

**T**here is a hand that lifts, protects, and saves, the hand of God. I speak not from hearsay but from experience. At ten, my world turned dark when I became physically handicapped. My dreams seemed unattainable, school, a career, a future. Mobility challenges forced me to stop schooling, and I was left with nothing but hope for a miracle. Then, the hand of God appeared.

He restored my academic journey, leading me through primary, secondary, and higher education. Despite my limitations, I excelled, always among the best. He shaped my career, transforming me into a successful author and media practitioner. The very hands I once doubted now craft stories and communicate ideas that impact others.

Today, I live without fear because I know God's hand holds me. It has not only lifted me but made me a blessing to others. If you seek proof of His faithfulness, look no further, I am a testimony.

**Olusola Adeyefa, MCIM**

# Articles

## STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

### Understanding Individual Needs

Recognizing that each child has unique challenges is crucial. Collaborating with specialists such as therapists, teachers, and medical professionals, can help identify personalized strategies. Teaching Strategies states that, "A powerful ecosystem connects curriculum, assessment, family engagement, and professional development to support children with special needs."

#### Creating a Supportive Environment

##### **At Home:**

Establishing a routine, providing visual aids, and ensuring a calm space for learning are beneficial. Mummy and Child suggests adapting physical spaces to be more accessible and providing sensory-friendly toys to reduce anxiety.

##### **In School:**

Advocating for inclusive classrooms and tailored lesson plans is essential. The Guardian highlights the importance of early intervention and comprehensive support in fostering inclusive education.

##### **Building Social Connections**

Encouraging interactions with peers through guided group activities and clubs helps children feel valued and included. The inclusion of students with special needs in mainstream schools promotes a sense of belonging and community.

##### **Promoting Communication**

Utilizing tools like sign language, communication boards, or technology-assisted devices can enhance communication. Parents.com emphasizes the importance of teaching self-regulation skills to help

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## **Encouraging Individual Strengths and Interests**

Celebrating a child's talents, whether in art, music, or sports, boosts self-confidence and provides an outlet for expression. Parenting Special Needs Magazine notes that, "Until you have a kid with special needs, you have no idea of the depth of your strength, tenacity, and resourcefulness"

## **Provision of Emotional Support**

Helping children navigate frustrations with patience and reinforcing positive behavior is essential. Special Ed Resource emphasizes that "The adversity you experience in your walk as a parent with a special needs child will never compare to the accomplishments that you will experience."

## **Partnering with Experts**

Working with speech therapists, occupational therapists, or counselors ensures well-rounded support. Virtual Lab School advises that "The first step in establishing strong relationships with families of children with special needs is to spend time discussing and learning their wishes and concerns for their children."

## **Empowering Caregivers**

Equipping parents and caregivers with the right tools such as training sessions and support groups enhances their ability to support the child effectively. Mummy and Child suggests creating a supportive home environment that encourages continual learning and development.

## **Advocate for Policies and Resources**

Encouraging schools and governments to provide necessary resources, like specialized equipment and funding, is crucial. The Guardian reports that educational psychology services are pivotal in fostering inclusive education by prioritizing early intervention and comprehensive support.

## **Implementing Visual Supports**

Visual aids, such as charts, schedules, and symbols, can enhance a child's understanding of tasks and routines. National Autism Resources emphasizes that visual strategies support both understanding and memory, making it easier for children with special needs to follow instructions and transitions.

# TIPS FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

## Creating a Welcoming Learning Space:

Every child deserves a chance to shine, no matter where they come from or what challenges they face. Inclusive education isn't just about providing access, it's about ensuring that every student feels seen, valued, and supported. Here are some thoughtful tips for creating a classroom where every child feels at home, confident, and ready to learn.

### BUILD A FOUNDATION OF RESPECT AND KINDNESS

The first step to an inclusive classroom is cultivating a culture where kindness and respect are the foundation. When students feel respected for who they are, they are more likely to engage and connect with each other. For instance, you can start your day with activities that promote understanding, like "Circle Time," where everyone shares something unique about themselves. It's a simple way to help students see each other's worth beyond differences.

### HARNESS THE POWER OF TECHNOLOGY

Technology is more than just a tool, it can be a bridge for many students who need extra support. Whether it's a speech-to-text app or interactive learning platforms, these tools can level the playing field. Tech should be incorporated in a way that feels natural and supportive, not overwhelming. For example, a child who struggles with reading can use a text-to-speech tool, making the learning experience more accessible and engaging for them.

### MEET EVERY CHILD WHERE THEY ARE

Every student learns in their own way. Some might grasp concepts best by seeing them, others by doing, and some by listening. It's important to create a learning environment where there's space for everyone's learning style. This can be done by mixing things up: combine visuals, hands-on activities, and lively discussions. When a child connects with the material in a way that makes sense to them, it sparks excitement and

### HELP CHILDREN NAVIGATE THEIR EMOTIONS

Social and emotional learning is just as important as academic skills. When children are equipped to understand and manage their emotions, they're better able to focus and engage in learning. How? Create spaces for students to express themselves and practice empathy. Role-playing activities or group discussions about feelings can teach them how to understand each other, and how to support one another through tough

### CELEBRATE PROGRESS IN MANY FORMS

We all grow in different ways. While grades and tests are often the standard, they don't always reflect a child's full potential. Try mixing in creative projects, presentations, or storytelling sessions. These give kids the chance to shine in ways that traditional tests may not. And when students feel their effort is valued, it boosts their self-esteem and motivation.

### FOSTER PEER SUPPORT AND TEAMWORK

There's something magical about peer learning. Students learn best when they can collaborate, and when they work together, they also build lasting friendships and empathy. Let them learn from each other, whether it's a creative writer teaming up with a fantastic speaker or a math whiz helping out with problem-solving. When students support each other, they grow together.

# SPECIAL SCHOOLS, THERAPY CENTERS AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE SUPPORT IN NIGERIA



## OSUN

- St. Philips, Iloro school for special needs - Ile -Ife
- School for Special Needs, Aiyegbaju
- School for Special Needs, Modakeke-
- School for Special Needs, Ilare
- St. Mary School for Special Needs, Osogbo
- Primary School for Persons with Special Needs, Osogbo
- Secondary School for Persons with Special Needs, Osogbo
- School for Persons with Special Needs, Ikirun
- School for Special Needs, Ilesa
- School for Special Needs, Iwo

## OTHER STATE

**National Orthopaedic Hospital, Igbobi** (Special Education Unit)  
– Igbobi, Lagos State.

**The Lagos State School for the Blind**  
– Oregun, Ikeja, Lagos State.

**Kwara State School for the Deaf**  
– Ilorin, Kwara State.

**Federal College of Education (Special)**  
– Oyo State.

**The FCT School for the Deaf**  
– Gwagwalada, Abuja, FCT

**Bodija School for the Deaf**  
– Bodija, Ibadan, Oyo State.

**Oyo State School for the Physically Challenged**  
– Ibadan, Oyo State.

**Hope Center School**  
– Wuse, Abuja, FCT.

**Tobin Bright School**  
– Lagos State

**The Autism Centre** –  
Victoria Island, Lagos State

**Sightsavers Nigeria** (Special Education Services)  
– Nationwide (with programs in Lagos, Kano, Oyo, and other states).

**Benola Foundation**  
– Lekki, Lagos State.

**Patrick Speech and Languages Centre (PSLC)**  
– Ikeja, Lagos State.



# Highlighting Laws, Policies, or Rights Affecting Children With Special Needs

## 1. The Disability Rights Bill (Nigeria)

This bill aims to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, including children. It ensures access to education, healthcare, employment, and public services for people with disabilities. The bill ensures that children with disabilities are given equal educational opportunities and that institutions provide facilities to cater to their unique needs. Rights Covered:

- o Equal access to education, including special education.
- o Right to healthcare services and rehabilitation.
- o Protection against discrimination in all forms.
- o Accessibility to public buildings and transportation.

## 2. The Child Rights Act (2003)

children's rights, including those with disabilities. It is based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). This act ensures that children with disabilities have access to education and are protected from societal neglect and abuse. Rights Covered:

- o The right to free and compulsory education (including for children with special needs).
- o The right to live in an environment that promotes health, safety, and well-being.
- o Protection against abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

## 3. UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

The CRPD is an international treaty adopted by the United Nations in 2006. It emphasizes the rights of persons with disabilities to participate fully in society, ensuring equality, non-discrimination, and accessibility. The CRPD advocates for inclusive education systems, where children with disabilities can learn alongside their peers in mainstream schools, with necessary accommodations. Rights Covered:

- o Equal access to education in inclusive settings.
- o Right to healthcare services that meet the specific needs of persons with disabilities.
- o Participation in social, cultural, and recreational activities.

## **4. National Policy on Education (Nigeria)**

The National Policy on Education (NPE) provides guidelines for education in Nigeria and includes provisions for the education of children with special needs. The policy ensures the establishment of special education centers, provisions for resource rooms, and the training of special education teachers to accommodate children with diverse needs. Rights Covered:

- o The policy mandates that special education should be an integral part of the educational system.
- o Promotes inclusive education, where children with disabilities can learn in general schools with appropriate support.

## **5. The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities) Bill (Nigeria)**

This bill seeks to address the lack of inclusive policies and opportunities for persons with disabilities in Nigeria. Children with disabilities are guaranteed equal access to opportunities, including proper education and health care, to ensure their holistic development. Rights Covered:

- o Access to education, employment, and healthcare services.
- Protection from violence, exploitation, and abuse.

## **6. Education for All (EFA) Goals**

The EFA movement, established by UNESCO, advocates for education for all children, regardless of their abilities. The goal is to ensure that every child, including those with special needs, has access to quality education. It encourages nations to create inclusive education systems and to prioritize the development of programs that cater to children with disabilities. Rights Covered:

- o Ensures equitable access to education for all children.
- o Focuses on inclusive education and meeting the needs of all learners, including children with disabilities.

## **7. Special Education Policies (State-Specific)**

Various states in Nigeria have developed policies for the education of children with special needs. These policies often provide guidelines for the establishment of special schools, resource rooms, and inclusive education programs. These state policies ensure that children with special needs receive quality education in environments that are accessible and supportive. Rights Covered:

- o States have their own provisions for special education, which may include free education, transportation services, and specialized care for children with disabilities.

# Tips For Raising Awareness In The Community About Children With Special Needs

Raising awareness in the community about the unique needs of children with special needs can help break down barriers, create inclusive environments, and inspire people to offer their support. Here's how you can get started:

## Host Workshops and Talks

Organize casual workshops or seminars that explain what it's like to raise a child with special needs, and why inclusion is so important. Invite experts, caregivers, and families to share their insights. These gatherings give people a chance to learn and ask questions in a safe space, encouraging understanding and empathy.

## Organize Community Events

Plan events like charity walks, awareness days, or family fun days. Consider hosting events on globally recognized days like World Autism Day or International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Not only do these events bring the community together, but they're a great opportunity to raise funds and share information in a fun, engaging way.

## Distribute Informative Flyers

Create and distribute easy-to-read flyers and brochures with information about special needs, the rights of children, and resources available in the community. Flyers can be shared in libraries, coffee shops, and community centers, overall, places where people gather.

## Leverage Social Media

Use platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to share stories, facts, and resources. Video clips, inspirational quotes, and personal stories can go a long way in spreading the message. Social media is perfect for reaching a wide audience quickly, and when people see real stories, it helps challenge stereotypes and spark conversations.

## Involve Schools

Get schools involved in spreading awareness. Arrange for students to learn about special needs through projects, workshops, or even buddy systems where kids with special needs are paired with others for inclusive activities. Also, teaching kids about empathy and inclusion at a young age helps them develop compassion and understanding, which they carry with them into adulthood.

## Share Personal Stories

Sharing personal stories from families or individuals living with special needs make the issue relatable and help others understand the day-to-day challenges and triumphs. Personal stories help humanize the issue, making it harder for people to ignore or overlook. They also help break down misconceptions by showing the diversity of experiences.

# Challenges faced by Special Needs Students and Solution to these Challenges

by Mr. K. A. Oseni ( Principal, Secondary School for Persons with Special Needs, Osogbo.)

**S**pecial Needs Students also known as Students with Disabilities (SWD), face unique challenges in their academic journey. Here are some of the common challenges they encounter:

## Academic Challenges

1. Learning difficulties: Students with learning disabilities, such as dyslexia, dyscalculia, or dysgraphia, may struggle with reading, writing, math, or other academic skills.
2. Cognitive processing: Students with cognitive impairments, such as autism or traumatic brain injury, may have difficulty processing information, following instructions, or completing assignments.
3. Communication barriers: Students who are deaf or hard of hearing may face challenges in communicating with teachers and peers.

## Social and Emotional Challenges

1. Social isolation: Students with disabilities may experience social isolation or exclusion from their peers.
2. Low self-esteem: Repeated experiences of failure or difficulty can lead to low self-esteem and a lack of confidence.
3. Anxiety and stress: Students with disabilities may experience increased anxiety and stress due to the demands of academic and social expectations.

## Environmental and Institutional Challenges

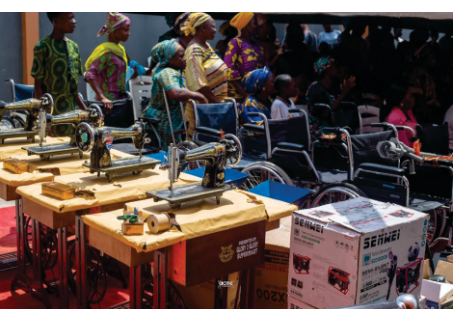
1. Inaccessible facilities: Physical barriers, such as inaccessible buildings or playgrounds, can limit students' participation and engagement.
  2. Lack of accommodations: Inadequate accommodations, such as insufficient assistive technology or inadequate support staff, can hinder students' ability to learn.
  3. Stigma and bias: Negative attitudes or biases from teachers, peers, or administrators can create a hostile or unwelcoming environment.
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## **Strategies for Support**

1. Individualized Education Programs (IEPs): Develop personalized plans to address students' unique needs and goals.
2. Accommodations and modifications: Provide necessary accommodations, such as assistive technology, and modifications to curriculum and instruction.
3. Inclusive practices: Foster inclusive environments by promoting awareness, acceptance, and support among teachers, peers, and administrators.
4. Professional development: Provide ongoing training and support for educators to ensure they are equipped to meet the diverse needs of students with disabilities.

By acknowledging and addressing these challenges, educators and policymakers can work together to create more inclusive and supportive learning environments for Special Needs Students.

# 2024 G2G Valentine Special -The History Maker



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