

**Special Kids Need Special Moms**  
**MOPS International Convention, August 2010**  
**Jolene Philo, Presenter**

**Learning Objective:**

In this workshop, moms will learn how to become a special needs child's advocate. They will learn strategies to help them be effective advocates in medical and education settings, as well as in prayer.

**How to Be an Advocate with the Doctors**

- Be confident
  
- Do research
  
- Be the expert
  
- Be a team player
  
- Be persistent
  
- Ask questions
  
- Explore options
  
- Enlist support

**How to Be an Advocate at School**

- Be supportive
  
- Be prepared
  
- Become an IEP and 504b expert
  - ➔ Definition of IEP - The Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) is a plan or program developed to ensure that a child who has a disability identified under the law and is attending an elementary or secondary educational institution receives specialized instruction and related services.

- ➔ Definition of 504b - The 504 Plan is a plan developed to ensure that a child who has a disability identified under the law and is attending an elementary or secondary educational institution receives accommodations that will ensure their academic success and access to the learning environment.

*Both definitions are from Washington University's website for The Alliance for Students with Disabilities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.*

- Be a problem-solver
- Set high expectations
- Be cooperative
- Be discerning
- Be a role model
- Be appreciative

### **How to Be an Advocate on Your Knees**

*"I believe there is nothing more powerful than the prayers of a mother for her children."  
Eduardo Verastegui (star of hit movie Bella)*

#### *Ten Ways to Pray for Your Child*

1. Pray consistently.
2. Pray scripture.
3. Create a weekly or monthly prayer list.
4. Biblical self-esteem – May my child see herself as fearfully and wonderfully made by God who knew her before she was born. Psalm 139
5. Endurance - Grace my child with endurance that creates a strong character able to rest in the hope God promises. Romans 5:3-5

6. Courage - may my child be strong and courageous, knowing that God is with her wherever she goes. Joshua 1:9
7. Healing - Grant that all goes well with my child, that he may have good health in body and soul. I John 3:12
8. Love - May my child know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that she may be filled with all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:19
9. Joy - May my child rejoice with joy inexpressible and be filled with glory because he knows you love him. I Peter 1:8
10. Peace - May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard my daughter's heart and soul and mind in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7

#### *Ten Ways to Pray for Health Care Workers*

1. Health - Bless those caring for my child with good health. Protect them, sustain them, and keep them healthy. Psalm 41:1-3
2. Salvation - Show Your salvation, which You have brought to all the nations, to the doctors and nurses and therapists, anyone who doesn't yet know you. Isaiah 52:10
3. Wisdom - Bless the doctors and nurses with wisdom and understanding from You. Proverbs 3:13
4. Clear thinking - Help the doctors choose rightly and know what is best for my child. Job 34:4
5. Humble hearts - Grant these men and women humble hearts and give them grace as they treat my child. I Peter 5:5
6. Cooperative - May all the workers gather and fight as one to help my child. Joshua 9:2
7. Discernment - May the doctors abound more and more with discernment and knowledge concerning my child's condition. Philippians 1:9
8. Kindness - Grant the workers kindness and mercy toward my child. Zechariah 7:9
9. Strength - Be a refuge and strength, a very present help to those caring for my child. Psalm 46:1
10. Encouragement - Give me Your words to encourage those caring for our child.

I Thessalonians. 5:11

*Ten Ways to Pray for Educators* – pray many of above, but here are some others

1. Motivation - Grant the teachers and staff a desire to do Your will for our child.  
I John 2:13
2. Stamina - May your power give those working with my child strength in their weakness. II Corinthians 12:9
3. Refreshment - Use me to refresh and encourage teachers and staff by sharing with them the joy you give me. Philemon 1:7
4. Time management - Guide the teachers to make the best use of the time they have with my child. Ephesians 5:18
5. Love for your child - May those working with my child love him, not only in word or talk, but in deed and in truth. I John 3:21
6. Understanding - May the teachers listen to my child so their hearts understand her. Proverbs 2:2
7. Creativity - May Your creative image of stir creativity in those who teach my son. Genesis 1:27
8. Consistency - Fill the teachers with your unchanging stability day after day so my child has a consistent environment. James 3:17
9. Speech - Give teachers and staff words of truth spoken in love to our child and to us. Ephesians 4:15
10. Provision - Provide everything the school needs to meet the needs of our child. Philippians 4:19

**Resource List:**

[www.DifferentDream.com](http://www.DifferentDream.com) - resource page has many books and websites

[www.jolenephilo.com](http://www.jolenephilo.com)

[www.praymag.com](http://www.praymag.com)

[www.specialneedsparentcoach.com](http://www.specialneedsparentcoach.com)

<http://specialchildren.about.com/>

<http://www.wrightslaw.com/>

Difference between IEPs and 504 plans: <http://www.washington.edu/doi/Stem/articles?52>

Interview with Eduardo Verastegui: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y04HMaC5kT0>  
*Breakthrough Parenting for Children with Special Needs* by Judy Winters (Jossey-Bass 2006)

*The Church and Disability* by Jeff McNair, 2009

*Same Lake, Different Boat* by Stephanie O. Hubach (P & R Publishing, 2006)

*More than a Mom: Living a Full and Balanced Life when Your Child Has Special Needs*  
by Amy Baskin and Heather Fawcett (Woodbine House: April 30, 2006)

*A Different Dream for My Child: Meditations for Parents of Critically or Chronically Ill  
Children* by Jolene Philo (Discovery House Publishers, 2009)

*Parenting Children With Health Issues* by Cline and Greene (Love & Logic Institute,  
2007)