

*Jesus Loves the Little Children*



*All*

*the Children of the World*

**SPECIAL EDUCATION SUNDAY**

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# The words are so simple. The idea is so profound.

The Lord Himself said: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." (Luke 18:16b-17)

Jesus said these words because His disciples were trying to keep a group of children away from Him. They were concerned that the children might be bothering the Master. They did not understand the heart of Jesus. Do we?

The picture on the cover is a picture of several children playing. The one pulling the skaters is a Special Needs Child. She represents approximately 45,000 Special Needs children under 17 years of age in the state of North Carolina. 120 Southern Baptist churches in North Carolina minister to people like her. 120 churches cannot come close to meeting the needs. Special Needs children by the thousands are being "hindered" from entering the Kingdom of God.

Special Needs children include young people with severe, chronic mental and/or physical disabilities. This population includes persons with mental handicaps. It also includes persons with physical and emotional disabilities. This special population, so dear to the heart of God, is not easily assimilated into our churches. This happens due to the many accessibility issues that our buildings and our attitudes raise.

This year, as your church celebrates Special Education Sunday, will you commit yourself as a church and as an individual to be fully accessible? If you need help moving in that direction call the special Ministries Office of the Baptist State Convention. We would like to help you love the children.

If your church would like to know more about Special Needs Ministry or about Happiness Retreat call Donnie at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5630 or visit [www.ncbaptist.org](http://www.ncbaptist.org).

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