Individuals with Special Needs - Dr. Karen Walker

An individual with special needs requires assistance for disabilities that may be

* mental,
* emotional, or
* physical.

Often an individual with special needs struggles with

* Social Skills
* Communication
* Sensory Issues

Social Skills

* Cultural expectations
* Personal space
* Facial expressions and social cues
* Eye contact
* Theory of Mind – A social-cognitive skill that allows an individual to understand what someone else is thinking or feeling.

Communication

* Greeting
* Conversation turn-taking
* Non-verbal
* Eye contact
* Response time
* Sensory Issues

How families can help…

* Awareness – what challenges your loved one?
* Practice social situations – what are cultural expectations?
* Plan for the unexpected
* Rehearse greetings and appropriate responses
* Eliminate or avoid sensory triggers
* Create a calm atmosphere
* Have patience