

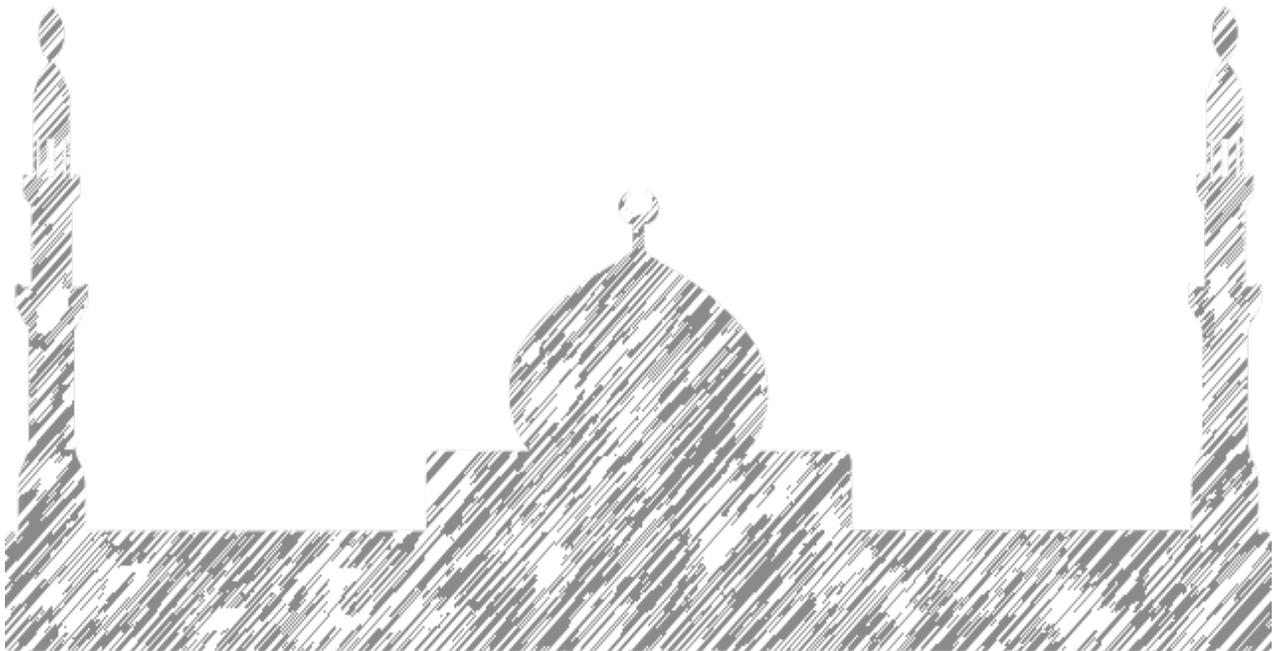


## Suggested Topics for Discussions about Disabilities

*These are suggestions and tips for discussions submitted by parents, caregivers and volunteers who would appreciate this dialogue in the community. These are thoughtful contributions to consider, but there are many more possibilities that can be discussed and lead to meaningful conversations and interactions inshaAllah.*

- Consider the Islamic perspective on disabilities and varying ability levels – that everybody is a beautiful creation of the Beautiful Creator, regardless of "flaws" we perceive.
- The Ummah's obligation to care for others in whichever way we are able to.
- Consider the access and inclusion to masjids that we all have and take for granted- wanting and providing that same access and inclusion for brothers and sisters with disabilities.
- Reminder to not take our own health and wellness for granted, as it is an enormous blessing from Allah (swt) and could drastically change at any moment leading to accessibility needs where there wasn't before.
- As a community, we must think about easing the path (figuratively and literally) for others.
- We must not forget our elders as aging-related disability and caring for our parents and grandparents as they grow older is a duty, obligation and privilege.
- Community leaders should try to give practical advice to inspire change.
- A Muslim should want to help anyone who is in need, not just special needs in particular.
- We must think of the next generation of Muslims and talk about inclusion in Masjid to Muslim youth and community groups.
- Practically point to specific examples of when to help special needs families feel included- Eid and Taraweeh Salat accommodations lend toward a true feeling of community.

- Accommodation can be served through financial and emotional means: emphasizing the fact that to give not just monetarily but also of your time.
- The importance of helping individuals in our own community. If we want to strengthen as a Muslim community in the US, we must support locally as well as internationally.
- Call out to the families of those with disabilities and encourage them to PLEASE come to the masjid. It's very important that these families come out especially if these services and accommodations are being provided and they are welcomed.
- We must address the way some people think of disability. We need *action* but before that we must change our *perspective* in order to act effectively.
- Disability is NOT a "punishment"... it is NOT something that needs to be hidden.... it is NOT something that can't happen to/affect you.
- Sensitivity is not only looking at someone and saying "Alhamdulillah I don't have that disability" but rather acknowledging that people with disabilities and special needs have so much to offer as well.



IS YOUR MASJID **MUHSEN** CERTIFIED?