



National Apostolate for  
Inclusion Ministry

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*Promoting the Full Inclusion of People with Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities in the  
Life of the Catholic Church*

## Getting to Know Your Student: Multi-Action Planning System

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*By Mary Pat Carter with Marilyn Bishop*

A formal getting to know you process that was developed in Canada is known as the MAPS process. MAPS is the acronym for multi-action planning system. It is designed to be used in a group setting with a facilitator and a recorder. While time may prohibit the use of the MAP process in its entirety, most of the information designed to be gathered during a MAP session may be obtained from the parents on an informal basis. .

The following issues relate to questions addressed during a MAP. The questions with the issues are found on the **Multi-Action Planning System Form** reproduced on a NAFIM tip sheet under the heading Catechesis: Individualizing Lesson Plans.

1. **History:** Question 1 "History" refers to the story of the person's life from birth to the present time.
2. **Who:** Question 2 "Who is Jeff?" on the Form results in a list of adjectives that describe the person.
3. **Strengths:** Question 3 places the focus on the strengths of the person you are getting to know.
4. **Dreams:** Question 4 addresses the future. It puts the teacher in touch with the parent's vision of the future for their child.
5. **Nightmares:** Question 5 described as "Nightmares/Fears" helps the parent explore things they hope to avoid for their child.
6. **Needs:** Question 6 "Needs" is intended to elicit what is needed for the student to move closer to the dream, avoid the nightmare and meet the needs of the student

A second meeting is then held to develop a plan of action for the student. The plan of action is specific in terms of who will do what by when in order to move the student closer to the dream. While time constraints may prevent the use of the MAP process in a formal setting, some modifications can be made and the information will be most helpful as you plan for this student.