

## **The Why behind the Primary Conference:**

Early in 2023, the Toledo Stake recognized that our Unit Primaries were having an increased number of children with learning disabilities. The most challenging were children with autism and ADHD (attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder). The result was that many of our teachers were finding it difficult to teach gospel principles when their classes had both typical and atypical learners in them.

While searching for something that could help, a member of our Stake found a June 2023, report published by the CDC (Center for Disease Control) which said, in 2023 one in every thirty-six babies born in the US had Autism. They also reported that they expect the ratio of healthy babies to Autistic babies to continue decreasing until researchers discover the cause and a way to stop it.

About the same time we discovered the sad news, we also found some very encouraging news. Our Church had started a new Disabilities section on its website, and in that section there were ten one-minute videos with an incredible woman demonstrating a teaching method that would work well for both typical and atypical learners. It took several months, but we finally learned who she was, and her phone number. We telephoned her, and asked if she would come and share with us additional teaching methods that would improve our teachers and parents' abilities to help children realize their full potential.

We are very excited to tell you that Sister Steed is flying from Salt Lake City to Detroit Metro on March 16 to explain to us ways that we can successfully teach typical and atypical children in the same classroom and both can be learning. Her name is Katie Edna Steed, the Disabilities Manager for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.