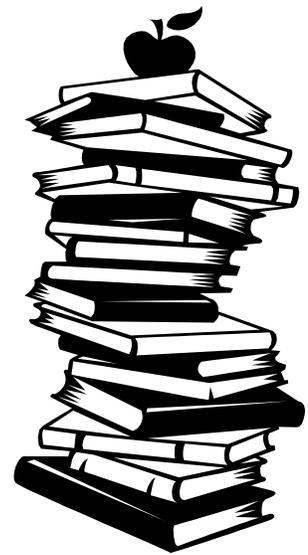


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# HOW TO USE LITERATURE TO TEACH DISABILITY AWARENESS



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## Work with your Media Specialist on locating books appropriate for disability awareness in your grade level.

When selecting books consider the following suggestions. For children in High School you might have them read one of the books off the list and evaluate the book using these guidelines.

### GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS EVALUATING CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Children enjoy books with characters and events with which children can identify. When choosing books about people with disabilities, it is important to select those that portray people with disabilities in a positive way. When previewing books, use this guideline to select the most appropriate publications for your class.

1. **Does the book have an interesting plot or is the disability the only theme?** Choose books that show people with disabilities in the mainstream of life. The characters should be included in real situations that are relevant and enjoyable for children to read aloud.
2. **Does the book deal with the whole person or just the disability?** Often, books will focus on the character's disabilities rather than on the character himself/herself.
3. **Is the individual shown as a capable person with strengths as well as needs?** People with disabilities have abilities, strengths and individual interests.
4. **Does the book foster positive attitudes toward others?** Often, books about disabilities show pity towards people with disabilities and give them an image of being helpless people instead of capable people.
5. **Does the book use "people first" language?** "People first" language emphasizes the person and not the disability. For example, "a person who uses a wheelchair" instead of "a person confined to a wheelchair," and "a person with Cerebral Palsy" instead of "a Cerebral Palsy victim."
6. **Does the book highlight similarities as well as show differences?** A child with a disability is more like his/her peers than different.
7. **Do the illustrations/photographs/graphics enhance and clarify the text?** Young children are visually oriented. Attractive and interesting pictures are appealing to them.
8. **Can children understand the book by looking at the pictures?** Include books in your collection that children can look through, understand and enjoy on their own.
9. **Does the book carry oversimplified generalizations or present stereotypes about persons with disabilities (objects of pity, dependent, isolated)?** Be sensitive to the negative images of people with disabilities and avoid selecting books that perpetuate these stereotypes.

Information adapted from New Friends: Mainstreaming Activities to Help Young Children Understand and Accept Individual Differences.

## Ideas for using books to teach disability awareness in the classroom:

1. Look through the required literature for your grade level and see if there are stories about persons with disabilities. Extend this lesson by bringing in other books from the media-center about this same disability for students to read and discuss.
2. Select an activity(s) from the disability awareness information that is attached to introduce disability awareness in your classroom. Use the literature available in the media center to reinforce the information you introduced in the activity.
3. Also discuss the “people first” attitude. “People first” recognizes that although people with disabilities might appear different, they are people first and their disability comes second. Choose one or more stories that demonstrate the “people first” attitude. Also, have the children make a collage. Have them work in small groups to cut out pictures in magazines that depict people helping each other. Combine the pictures in a large collage to be displayed in the classroom or somewhere else in the school.
4. Have students read one of the books of their choice and write, do a power point presentation, or give an oral book report. Have them focus on the positive information in the book regarding the person with disability.
5. Have students be “book critics” and read one of the books. They should write about what they liked and disliked about the book to display in the book critics corner or bulletin board.

## Disability Awareness Material

**The following is a list of books that are fiction and non-fiction text that relate to students with disability. Some of these books are professional books. The book list was created in 2010 so there are likely newer print books available. This list will get you started.**

### Elementary School List:

ANDY AND HIS YELLOW FRISBEE	THOMPSON
BE GOOD TO EDDIE LEE	FLEMING
BECKY THE BRAVE : A STORY ABOUT EPILEPSY	LEARS
BEN HAS SOMETHING TO SAY : A STORY ABOUT STUTTERING	LEARS
BEST FIGHT	SCHLIEPER
COUNT US IN : GROWING UP WITH DOWN SYNDROME	KINGSLEY

DIFFERENT IS NOT BAD, DIFFERENT IS THE WORLD : A BOOK ABOUT	SMITH
DOLL ON THE TOP SHELF	TURK
DON'T-GIVE-UP-KID : AND LEARNING DIFFERENCES	GEHRET
EAGLE EYES : A CHILD'S GUIDE TO PAYING ATTENTION	GEHRET
EUIKEE THE JUMPY JUMPY ELEPHANT	CORMAN
FRIENDS AT SCHOOL	BUNNETT
GIFT OF THE GIRL WHO COULDN'T HEAR	SHREVE
HOORAY FOR HAROLD : DEALING WITH HEARING LOSS	PETERS. TIM
HOWIE HELPS HIMSELF	FASSLER
I'M SOMEBODY TOO	GEHRET
IAN'S WALK : A STORY ABOUT AUTISM	LEARS
JOEY AND SAM : A HEARTWARMING STORYBOOK ABOUT AUTISM, A FAMI	KATZ
JOEY PIGZA LOSES CONTROL	GANTOS
JUST CALL ME STUPID	BIRDSEYE
MANY WAYS TO LEARN : YOUNG PEOPLE'S GUIDE TO LEARNING DISAB	STERN
MOTHER GOOSE IN SIGN	COLLINS
PAY ATTENTION, SLOSH!	SMITH
PROBABLY STILL NICK SWANSEN	WOLFF
RADIANCE DESCENDING	FOX
SAFE PLACE	PETERSEIL
SCHOOL SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR KIDS WITH LD* : (*LEARNING DIFFERE	CUMMINGS

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SLAM DUNK : YOUNG BOY'S STRUGGLE WITH ATTENTION DEFECIT	PARKER	
SOMEONE SPECIAL, JUST LIKE YOU	BROWN	
SPECIAL PEOPLE, SPECIAL WAYS	MAGUIRE	
SPECIAL RACCOON : HELPING A CHILD LEARN ABOUT HANDICAPS AND	CARLISLE	
STAY AWAY FROM SIMON!	CARRICK	
SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR KIDS WITH LD : (LEARNING DIFFERENCES)	FISHER	
T.J.'S STORY : A BOOK ABOUT A BOY WHO IS BLIND	SCHULMAN	
TAKING DIABETES TO SCHOOL	GOSELIN	
THANK YOU, MR. FALKER	POLACCO	
TIBBY TRIED IT	USEMAN	
VIEWS FROM OUR SHOES : GROWING UP WITH A BROTHER OR SISTER W	MEYER	
WAY TO GO, ALEX!	PULVER	
WE'LL PAINT THE OCTOPUS RED	STUVE-BODEEN	
WHAT WOULD JOEY DO?	GANTOS	
	HAMMEKEN	
INCLUSION : 450 STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS : A PRACTICAL GUIDE F		POWELL
AUTISM AND LEARNING : A GUIDE TO GOOD PRACTICE		BLEY
TEACHING MATHEMATICS TO STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES		

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**Middle/High School List**

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ALFRED SUMMER	SLEPIAN
ALL KINDS OF MINDS : A YOUNG STUDENT'S BOOK ABOUT LEARNING A	LEVINE
ARE YOU ALONE ON PURPOSE?	WERLIN
	POWELL
<b>AUTISM AND LEARNING : A GUIDE TO GOOD PRACTICE</b>	
AVI	MARKHAM
CAN YOU FEEL THE THUNDER?	MCELFRESH
COUNT US IN : GROWING UP WITH DOWN SYNDROME	KINGSLEY
CRAZY HORSE ELECTRIC GAME	CRUTCHER
DIFFERENT IS NOT BAD, DIFFERENT IS THE WORLD : A BOOK ABOUT	SMITH
DISABILITY RIGHTS MOVEMENT	KENT
FREAK THE MIGHTY	PHILBRICK
GIFT OF THE GIRL WHO COULDN'T HEAR	SHREVE
I'M SOMEBODY TOO	GEHRET
I'M TOUGHER THAN ASTHMA!	CARTER
	HAMMEKEN
INCLUSION : 450 STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS : A PRACTICAL GUIDE F	
JOEY PIGZA LOSES CONTROL	GANTOS
JOEY PIGZA SWALLOWED THE KEY	GANTOS
LEARNING DISABILITIES : THE ULTIMATE TEEN GUIDE	PAQUETTE
LESSONS LEARNED : STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES	FULLEN
MY BROTHER'S A WORLD-CLASS PAIN	GORDON
ONLY ALIEN ON THE PLANET	RANDLE
PUTTING ON THE BRAKES : YOUNG PEOPLE'S GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDIN	QUINN
SILENT SPILLBILLS	SEIDLER

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SOMEBODY SOMEWHERE : BREAKING FREE FROM THE WORLD OF AUTISM

WILLIAMS

SOMETIMES I GET ALL SCRIBBLY : LIVING WITH ATTENTION DEFICIT

NEUVILLE

TEACHING MATHEMATICS TO STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

BLEY

TEACHING SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNERS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

HEARNE

WHEN PIGS FLY

WOOD

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