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Christi Carter Urschel Family Resource Center
Disability Awareness

Books for Parents

1. All Kids Can: A Hands-On Program That Teaches Young Minds to Value and Respect Differences in Others
Dallas, TX: Arc of Dallas, c2000.

This is a disability awareness program designed for grades 4-6 from the Arc of Dallas. Includes a video.

2. Disability Awareness: A Guidebook for Families and Educators
Minneapolis, MN: Pacer Center, c2001.

This book was developed to be used as a resource guide by teachers and others who are interested in helping children learn about disabilities. It provides basic information about many disabilities and also lists books, videos and organizations that provide further information on particular disabilities.

3. Everybody's Different: Understanding and Changing Our Reactions to Disabilities
by Nancy B. Miller & Catherine C. Sammons
Baltimore, MD: Brookes Publishing Co., c1999. ISBN: 1557663599

This book features awareness activities that show how people see differences and specific interaction tips. The authors explore how people's reaction to and beliefs about disabilities influences their progress toward a more inclusive society.

4. Sensitivity and Awareness: A Guide for Developing Understanding Among Children
by Norma H. McPhee, Paddy C. Favazza, Ed.D. & Eleanore Grater Lewis
Hollidaysburg, PA: Jason & Nordic Publishers, c1998. ISBN: 0944727344

This book is designed specifically as a resource for people who are concerned with helping children develop an understanding, an ease with people who are different, especially people with disabilities. Included are basic facts about some of the more common disabilities students may have in inclusive classrooms.

5. Special Stories for Disability Awareness: Stories and Activities for Teachers, Parents and Professionals
by Mal Leicester

Philadelphia, PA: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, c2007. ISBN: 1843103907

Stories both educate and entertain, stimulating imagination and creativity. This collection of short stories, whose heroes and heroines are disabled children, will promote disability awareness and discussion among children ages 4 to 11.

Books for Children

1. Different Just Like Me by Lori Mitchell
Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, c1999. ISBN: 0881069752
The message of this book is people are different from one another in some ways but basically they are alike. Young April comes to this conclusion as she rides a bus with two children who communicate in sign language, watches a blind woman reading Braille numbers next to an elevator and washes her hands in a rest room alongside a woman in a wheelchair.
Ages 4-8
2. Don't Call Me Special: A First Look at Disability by Pat Thomas
Hauppauge, NY: Barron's Educational Series, c2000. ISBN: 0764121189
This picture book explores questions and concerns about disability in a simple and reassuring way. Younger children can find out what a disability is and learn how people deal with their disabilities to live happy and full lives.
Ages 4-8
3. Harry and Willy and Carrothead by Judith Caseley
New York, NY: Greenwillow, c1991. ISBN: 0688094929
Harry was born with no left hand. When he got to school, the kids asked him what was wrong with his arm. "Nothing", said Harry. "That's my prosthesis". Harry's hand didn't keep him from becoming a good baseball player--or a good friend.
Ages 4-8
4. Jumpin' Johnny Get Back to Work! A Child's Guide to ADHD/Hyperactivity
by Michael Gordon, PhD
DeWitt, NY: GSI Publications, c1991. ISBN: 0962770116
This is the story of Johnny, a boy who has trouble paying attention even when he really tries. This book was written for ADHD youngsters who want to understand how their problem was identified and what kinds of feelings and concerns they might experience throughout the process of evaluation and treatment.
Ages 4-8
5. Learning to Slow Down and Pay Attention: A Book for Kids About ADD
by Kathleen G. Nadeau, Ph.D. and Ellen B. Dixon, PhD
Washington, DC: Magination Press, c1997. ISBN: 1557984565
Written especially for kids, this guidebook about the challenges of ADD is packed with cartoons, activity pages and checklists.
Ages 9-12

6. Lee the Rabbit with Epilepsy

by Deborah M. Moss

Kensington, MD: Woodbine House, c1989. ISBN: 0933149328

This illustrated tale tells the story of Lee, a young rabbit who has her first seizure during a fishing trip with her grandpa. Once home, her parents take her to the doctor, who examines her and discovers that she has epilepsy.

Ages 4-8

7. Not Better...Not Worse...Just Different

by Sharon Scott

Amherst, MA: Human Resource Development Press, c1992. ISBN: 0874251958

When children are very young, they will usually make friends with anyone and everyone.

They do not discriminate because of age, sex, race, intelligence, physical difference or brand labels worn. Somewhere along the way, however, they learn that people are different and that society places higher value on certain traits. This book is written to teach children to be kind to one another.

Ages 5-10

8. Odd Velvet

by Mary E. Whitcomb

San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, c1998. ISBN: 0811820041

A story of an oddball girl whose differences teach her classmates to appreciate their own unique qualities. On the first day of school, while the other children bring the teacher cinnamon tea and potpourri, Velvet offers "an egg carton filled with seven rocks, her favorite red shoelaces and a half a sparrow's egg." This one's for anyone who feels different or who knows someone who's different.

Ages 4-8

9. Rolling Along with Goldilocks and the Three Bears

by Cindy Meyers

Bethesda, MD: Woodbine House, c1999. ISBN: 1890627127

In this updated version of a familiar folktale, baby bear gets around in a wheelchair and has a motorized bed. Goldilocks becomes friends with him after her surprise visit to the three bears' house.

Ages 4-8

10. Shelley the Hyperactive Turtle

by Deborah M. Moss

Kensington, MD: Woodbine House, c1989. ISBN: 093314931X

Shelley the turtle has a very hard time sitting still, even for short periods of time. During a visit to the doctor, Shelley learns that he is hyperactive, and that he can take medicine every day to control his wiggly feeling.

Ages 4-8

11. Special People, Special Ways

by Arlene Maguire

Santa Monica, CA: Portunus Publishing, c1999. ISBN: 1885477651

This book presents a positive image of persons with disabilities. It shares the message that even though each of us may have something different about us, we share many commonalities.

Ages 4-8

12. The Special Raccoon: Helping a Child Learn about Handicaps and Love

by Kim Carlisle

Far Hills, NJ: Small Horizons, c1994. ISBN: 0882820966

This is the lovingly illustrated and unusually moving story of two raccoon sisters, one of whom is profoundly handicapped. In the course of the beautiful spring day they spend together, the "normal" sister learns to accept and appreciate the uniqueness of each one of us.

Ages 4-8

13. Susan Laughs

by Jeanne Willis

New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, c1999. ISBN: 0805065016

Without being condescending or preachy, the words, pictures and design of this very simple picture book show that a physically disabled child is "just like me, just like you." Only on the very last page do we discover that Susan uses a wheelchair.

Ages 4-8

14. Tibby Tried It

by Sharon and Ernie Useman

Washington, DC: Magination Press, c1999. ISBN: 1557985588

In this fable about coping with a physical disability, Tibby is a tree swallow with a broken wing who will never be able to fly. Undeterred, Tibby travels cheerfully around the forest, where he meets a variety of animals who teach him how to climb, slither, hop and maneuver in other ways. And when Tibby uses his new-found abilities to save a baby robin, he becomes a hero.

Ages 4-8

15. We're Different, We're the Same

by Bobbi Jane Kates

New York, NY: Random House, c1992. ISBN: 0679832270

Sesame Street characters, along with a diverse group of children (including ones with disabilities) are featured in this children's book on diversity and differences. Muppets, monsters, and humans compare noses, hair, and skin and realize how different we all are. But as they look further, they also discover how much we are alike.

Ages 4-8

Videos

1. All Kids Can!
Arc of Dallas & DISD
2. Kids Just Want to Have Fun! Disability Awareness for Grades K-5
Cicero, NY: Program Development Associates, c1998
3. What's the Difference? Disability Awareness for Grades 6-12
Cicero, NY: Program Development Associates, c1998.

Web site

All Kids Can!

<http://www.allkidscan.com>

All Kids Can! is a disabilities awareness program that helps students of all ages learn attitudes of acceptance, dignity and respect toward all people, especially those with disabilities. From the Arc of Dallas.

Disclaimer: This material is designed for information purposes only. It should not be used in place of medical advice, instruction and/or treatment. If you have specific questions, please contact your doctor or appropriate health care professional.