



Suggested Book List about Persons with Disabilities

Reading Levels: AC = Adult Read to Children JE = Juvenile Easy Reading

Title: *Andy and His Yellow Frisbee*

Author: Mary Thompson

Publisher: Woodbine House, 6510 Bells Mill Road, Bethesda, MD 20817; 1996

ISBN #: ISBN-0-933149-83-2

Disability: Autism

Story Profile: Sarah is a new girl at school who is curious about why Andy spins his yellow frisbee every day by himself on the playground. When Sara tries to talk to Andy, Rosie, Andy's older sister, watches and worries about how her brother may react. Rosie knows that Andy is in his own world most of the time, and that he has trouble finding the words to express himself.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *A Picture Book of Helen Keller*

Author: David A. Adler

Publisher: Holiday House

ISBN #: ISBN-0-8234-0818-3

Disability: Deaf-Blind

Story Profile: Some salient details in the life of Helen Keller are described in this pictorial Biography: her frustration, and untamed behavior and the radical changes effected by Anne Sullivan Macy.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *Armann and Gentle*

Author: Kristin Steinsdottir

Publisher: Stuttering Foundation of America, PO Box 11749, Memphis, TN 38111-0749; 1997

ISBN #: ISBN-0-933388-36-5

Disability: Stuttering

Story Profile: A six-year-old boy, Armann, stutters when he is frustrated.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *A Very Special Friend*

Author: Dorothy Hoffman Levi

Publisher: Gallaudet University Press, Kendall Green, 800 Florida Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002-3695; 1989

ISBN #: ISBN-0-9300323-55-6

Disability: Deafness

Story Profile: Frannie, a lonely little girl, discovers a new friend when a deaf girl her age moves in next door.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *A Very Special Sister*

Author: Dorothy Hoffman Levi

Publisher: Gallaudet University Press, Kendall Green, 800 Florida Ave., NE, Washington, DC



20002-3695; 1992

ISBN #: ISBN-0-930323-96-3

Disability: Deafness

Story Profile: Mixed feelings are experienced by Laura, a young deaf girl, upon finding out her mother will soon give birth. Her initial excitement is replaced by worries that the new child, if able to hear, will be more lovable.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *Be Good to Eddie Lee*

Author: Virginia Filling

Publisher: Philomel Books, Putnam & Grosset Group, 200 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016

ISBN #: ISBN-0-399-21993-5

Disability: Down Syndrome

Story Profile: Eddie Lee, a young boy with Down syndrome, follows the neighborhood children into the woods to find frog eggs. They are resentful and try to make him stay home.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *Big Brother Dustin*

Author: Alden R. Carter

Publisher: Albert Whitman & Co., 6340 Oakton Street, Morton Grove, IL 60053-2723; 1997

ISBN #: ISBN-0-8075-0715-6

Disability: Down Syndrome

Story Profile: Dustin, a young boy with Down syndrome, learns that his parents are expecting a baby.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *Cat's Got Your Tongue?*

Author: Charles E. Schaefer, Ph.D.

Publisher: Brunner/Mazel, Publishers, 19 Union Square, New York, NY 10003; 1992

ISBN #: ISBN-0-945354-45-2 hard copy; ISBN-0-945354-46-0 paperback

Disability: Communication Disorders, Mutism

Story Profile: Anna, a kindergartner, is diagnosed as an electively mute child.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *Danny and the Merry-Go-Round*

Author: Nan Holcomb

Publisher: Jason and Nordic, Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1987

ISBN #: ISBN-0-944727-00-X

Disability: Cerebral Palsy

Story Profile: Danny, who has cerebral palsy, visits the park with his mother and watches other children playing on a playground. He makes friends with a young girl after his mother explains cerebral palsy to her and points out that it is not contagious.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *Happy Birthday Jason*

Author: C. Jean Cutbill and Diane Rawsthorn

Publisher: IPI Publishing Ltd., 50 Prince Arthur Avenue, Suite 306, Toronto, Ontario, M5R



1B5 Canada; 1984

ISBN #: 0-920702-37-6

Disability: Reading Disability, Dyslexia

Story Profile: A delightful story that will help children better understand their world by understanding Jason's. His story reveals that children with learning disabilities are more similar to other children than they are different.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *Having a Brother Like David*

Author: Cindy Dolby Nollette and Others

Publisher: Minneapolis Children's Medical Center, Early Childhood Center, 2520 Minnehaha Ave., South, Minneapolis, MN 55404; 1985

ISBN #: N/A

Disability: Autism

Story Profile: Marty's brother, David, is autistic. Marty explains that David looks a lot like other children but has special needs.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *Ian's Walk: A Story About Autism*

Author: Laurie Lears

Publisher: Albert Whitman and Company, 6340 Oakton St., Morton Grove, IL 60053-2723; 1998

ISBN #: 0-8075-3480-3

Disability: Autism

Story Profile: Tara feels frustrated while taking a walk with her autistic brother, Ian. After she becomes separated from him, she learns to appreciate the way Ian experiences the world.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *Keith Edward's Different Days*

Author: Karen Melberg Schwier

Publisher: Impact Publishers

ISBN #: ISBN-0-915166-74-7

Disability: Down Syndrome; Physical Disabilities

Story Profile: Keith meets a variety of people with differences, including Down syndrome and other physical differences, and learns that being different is okay.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *Knots on a Counting Rope*

Author: Bill Martin and John Archambault

Publisher: Henry Holt

ISBN #: ISBN-0-8050-0571-4

Disability: Blindness

Story Profile: A boy is told a story by his grandfather of a boy born blind.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *Luke Has Asthma, Too*

Author: Alison Rogers

Publisher: Waterfront Books, 98 Brookes Ave., Burlington, VT 05401; 1987



ISBN #: ISBN-0-914525-06-9

Disability: Asthma

Story Profile: Luke has an older cousin who teaches him some aspects of asthma management and serves as a general role model.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *My Brother, Matthew*

Author: Mary Thompson

Publisher: Woodbine House, 5615 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852; 1992

ISBN #: ISBN-0-993149-47-6

Disability: Mental Retardation

Story Profile: David is a young boy who describes life with his younger brother, who was born with a mental disability.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *My Mom Is Handicapped: A "Grownup" Children's Book*

Author: Barbara Turner Brabham

Publisher: Cornerstone Publishing, PO Box 2896, Virginia Beach, VA 23450; 1994

ISBN #: ISBN-1-882185-22-6

Disability: Physical Disabilities

Story Profile: A six-year-old boy describes life with his mother, a teacher with physical disabilities.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *Russ and the Apple Tree Surprise*

Author: Janet Elizabeth Rickert

Publisher: Woodbine House, 5615 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852; 1992

ISBN #: 1-890627-16-x

Disability: Down Syndrome

Story Profile: Russ, a five-year old boy with Down syndrome, longs for a swing set. All his backyard has to offer is an apple tree. When his grandparents visit, Russ discovers the job of picking apples and making them into apple pie. He decides that his apple tree may be just as good as a swing set.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *Russ and the Fire House*

Author: Janet Elizabeth Rickert

Publisher: Woodbine House, 5615 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852; 1992

ISBN #: 1-890627-17-8

Disability: Down Syndrome

Story Profile: Russ is a young boy with Down syndrome whose everyday life experiences, not his disability, are the subject of books in this series. Russ goes "on-duty" with his Uncle, a fireman. Their shift includes a full inspection of the fire equipment, including keeping it clean. He also encounters Spark, the firehouse dog. At the end of this exciting day, all the firemen thank Russ for his hard work and invite him back for another visit.

Reading Level: AC



Title: *Russell Is Extra Special: A Book About Autism for Children*

Author: Charles A. Amenta III, M.D.

Publisher: Brunner/Mazel, Publishers, 19 Union Square, New York, NY 10003; 1992

ISBN #: ISBN-0-945354-43-6

Disability: Autism

Story Profile: This portrayal of an autistic boy and his family is designed to help children (ages 4 to 8) and their parents understand this serious developmental disorder.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *Silent Observer*

Author: Christy MacKinnon

Publisher: Gallaudet University Press, Kendall Green, 800 Florida Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002-3695; 1993

ISBN #: ISBN-1-56368-022-X

Disability: Deafness

Story Profile: Christy MacKinnon is a young girl born in 1889 on a farm on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Canada, who became deaf after having whooping cough. She describes her life in adjusting to deafness, her relationships with family, and her problems trying to understand and be understood by hearing individuals.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *Talking to Angels*

Author: Esther Watson

Publisher: Harcourt Brace, 525 B Street, Suite 1900, San Diego, CA 92101-4495; 1996

ISBN #: ISBN-0-15-201077-7

Disability: Autism

Story Profile: Christa is an autistic girl who is described in this picture book by her sibling. Her behavior is described and illustrated in mixed media, including her favorite sounds and textures, occasional staring and fixation on stimuli, and interactions with others.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *There's a Little Bit of Me in Jamey*

Author: Diana M. Amadeo

Publisher: Albert Whitman & Co., 6340 Oakton Street, Morton Grove, IL 60053-2723

ISBN #: ISBN-0-8075-7854-1

Disability: Leukemia

Story Profile: Brian struggles with the fact that his brother Jamey has leukemia and he submits to

a bone marrow test, which leads to a transplant.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *Thomas Alva Edison: Great Inventor*

Author: David A. Adler

Publisher: Holiday House

ISBN #: ISBN-0-8234-0820-5

Disability: Deafness

Story Profile: Thomas Edison's life and his many inventions, despite his deafness, that shape our lives today are explored in this book.

Reading Level: AC



Title: *What Do You Mean I Have a Learning Disability?*

Author: Kathleen M. Dwyer

Publisher: Walker and Company, 720 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10019; 1991

ISBN #: ISBN-0-8027-8102-0

Disability: Learning Disabilities

Story Profile: Ten-year-old Jimmy is having problems at school and believes he is stupid. After a parent-teacher conference, he is tested and found to have a learning disability.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *What It's Like to Be Me*

Author: Helen Exley

Publisher: Friendship Press, 1984

ISBN #: ISBN-0-377-00144-9

Disability: Various Disabilities

Story Profile: Children from all over the world write about themselves and their disabilities. They tell us how they see themselves and how they want to be seen. All of the illustrations are created by the children.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *You Can Call Me Willy: A Story for Children about AIDS*

Author: Joan C. Verniero

Publisher: Brunner/Mazel Publishers, 19 Union Square West, New York, NY 10003; 1995

ISBN #: ISBN-0-945354-60-6

Disability: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)

Story Profile: Willy is an eight-year-old girl with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Describing her life, she shares her hobbies, friends, family life, and aspects of her medical care and how it impacts her activities.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *Andy Opens Wide*

Author: Nan Holcomb

Publisher: Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1990

ISBN #: ISBN-0-944727-06-9

Disability: Cerebral Palsy

Story Profile: Andy, a young boy with cerebral palsy, is frustrated by his inability to open his mouth wide enough for his mother to feed him easily.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *Anna Joins In*

Author: Katrin Arnold

Publisher: Abingdon Press, 201 Eighth Ave. South, Nashville, TN 37202

ISBN #: ISBN-0-687-01530-8

Disability: Cystic Fibrosis

Story Profile: Anna is a young girl who has a difficult pattern to her days because she has cystic fibrosis.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *A Smile from Andy*

Author: Nan Holcomb

Publisher: Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1989

ISBN #: ISBN-0-944727-04-2



Disability: Cerebral Palsy

Story Profile: Andy, who has cerebral palsy, is very shy. One day he meets a girl who helps him discover something that he can do to reach out to others in his own special way.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *Buddy's Shadow*

Author: Shirley Becker

Publisher: Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1991

ISBN #: ISBN-0-944727-08-05

Disability: Down syndrome

Story Profile: Buddy, a five-year-old boy with Down syndrome, purchases a puppy.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *Can't You Be Still?*

Author: Sarah Yates

Publisher: Gima B. Publishing Inc., Box #713-740 Corydon Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3M 0Y1; 1992

ISBN #: ISBN-0-9696477-0-0

Disability: Cerebral Palsy

Story Profile: Ann, who has cerebral palsy, attends school for the first time.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *Charlsie's Chuckle*

Author: Clara Widess Berkus

Publisher: Woodbine House, 5615 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852; 1992

ISBN #: ISBN-0-933149-50-6

Disability: Down syndrome

Story Profile: Charlsie, a seven-year-old boy with Down syndrome, has an infectious laugh and enjoys bicycling around his neighborhood. On one such excursion he inadvertently wanders into a disputatious city council meeting and brings humor and harmony to the argumentative adults.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *Cookie*

Author: Linda Kneeland

Publisher: Jason and Nordic, Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1989

ISBN #: ISBN-0-944727-50

Disability: Down Syndrome

Story Profile: Molly, a four-year-old girl with Down syndrome, has difficulty talking. Her frustration with communication difficulties is relieved when someone comes to teach her sign language.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *Fair and Square*

Author: Nan Holcomb

Publisher: Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1992

ISBN #: ISBN-0-944727-10-7 hardback; ISBN-0-944727-09-3 paperback

Disability: Physical Disabilities

Story Profile: Kevin is confined to a wheelchair and has limited motor skills. A therapist introduces him to a computer game he can play and win, and shows him how to adapt other games for his use.

Reading Level: JE



Title: *How About a Hug*

Author: Nan Holcomb

Publisher: Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1987

ISBN #: ISBN-0-944727-01-8

Disability: Down Syndrome

Story Profile: A young girl with Down syndrome includes the details of a typical day in her life. While her daily activities require a degree of concentration and don't go perfectly smoothly, she is surrounded by helpful, supportive, and affectionate friends, family, and teachers, all of whom she agrees to hug when they offer.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *I'm Like You, You're Like Me: A Child's Book about Understanding and Celebrating Each Other*

Author: Cindy Gainer

Publisher: Free Spirit Publishing, Inc., 400 First Avenue North, Suite 616, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1724; 1998

ISBN #: ISBN-1-57542-039-2

Disability: General Disabilities

Story Profile: Children interact with people who are different from themselves; share, take turns, work and play together; discover and develop traits and skills that make them unique; and explore the many ways in which they are like and unlike others.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *Joey and Sam*

Author: Illana Katz and Edward Ritvo

Publisher: Real Life Story Books; 1993

ISBN #: ISBN-1-882388-00-3

Disability: Autism

Story Profile: Sam is five and has autism, and Joey is his six-year-old brother. They describe an ordinary day at home and at school, showing some of the ways they are different and alike.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *Kathy's Hats: A Story of Hope*

Author: Trudy Krisher

Publisher: Albert Whitman & Co., 6340 Oakton St., Morton Grove, IL 60053; 1992

ISBN #: ISBN-0-8075-4116-8

Disability: Cancer

Story Profile: Kathy is a young girl who develops cancer and loses her hair as a result of chemotherapy.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *Kevin's Story*

Author: Dvora Levinson, Ph.D.

Publisher: IPI Publishing Ltd., 50 Prince Arthur Avenue, Suite 306, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 1B5 Canada; 1984

ISBN #: 0-920702-22-88

Disability: Reading Disability, Dyslexia

Story Profile: Kevin exhibits reading problems and is referred for testing to a psychologist who explains reading and learning disabilities to him and his family.

Reading Level: JE



Title: *Luna and the Big Blur: A Story for Children Who Wear Glasses*

Author: Shirley Day

Publisher: Magination Press, 19 Union Square West, New York, NY 10003; 1995

ISBN #: ISBN-0-945354-66-5

Disability: Visual Impairments

Story Profile: Luna resents the fact that she needs glasses to correct her nearsightedness.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *My Sister Is Different*

Author: Betty Ren Wright

Publisher: Steck-Vaughn Company, PO Box 26015 Austin, TX 78755; 1990

ISBN #: ISBN- 0-8172-1369-4

Disability: Mental Retardation

Story Profile: Carlo tells us what it is like to have an older sister with mental retardation.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *Naomi Knows It's Springtime*

Author: Virginia L. Kroll

Publisher: Boyds Mills Press Inc., 910 Church St., Honesdale, PA 18431; 1987

ISBN #: ISBN-1-56397-006-0

Disability: Blindness

Story Profile: Naomi tells us of the signs of spring through the mind of the blind.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *Patrick and Ima Lou*

Author: Nan Holcomb

Publisher: Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1994

ISBN #: ISBN-0-944727-03-4

Disability: Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida

Story Profile: Three-year-old Patrick has cerebral palsy. He is having a hard time managing his new walker, but with the help of a new friend, Ima Lou, who is six and has spina bifida, they both discover something very important about each other.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *Sarah and Puffle: A Story for Children about Diabetes*

Author: Linnea Mulder

Publisher: Henry Holt; 1992

ISBN #: ISBN-0-94534-41-X hardback; ISBN-0-945354-42-8 paperback

Disability: Diabetes

Story Profile: Sarah feels resentful of the limitations the disease places on her activities until a stuffed animal (Puffle) comes to life and offers her encouraging rhymes about coping with diabetes.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *Sarah's Surprise*

Author: Nan Holcomb

Publisher: Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1990

ISBN #: ISBN-0-944727-07-7

Disability: Articulation Impairments

Story Profile: Six-year-old Sarah, who is unable to talk, has used a picture board to communicate. She is now ready for an augmentative communication device. With the help of her speech therapist she gives everyone a surprise at her mother's birthday party.

Reading Level: JE



Title: *See You Tomorrow, Charles*

Author: Miriam Cohen

Publisher: Yearling Publishers, 1745 Broadway 10th Floor, New York NY 10019; 1997

ISBN #: ISBN-0-688-01804-1

Disability: Blindness

Story Profile: Charles is a first grader who is adjusting to school as a blind student.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *The Bob (Butterbean) Love Story*

Author: Terry Page and Bob Love

Publisher: Boo Books, Inc., PO Box 201128, Chicago, Illinois 60620-1128; 1995

ISBN #: ISBN-1-887864-40-7

Disability: Speech Impairments

Story Profile: Bob's autobiography tells his story: a famous basketball player with a speech impediment.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *The Night Search*

Author: Kate Chamberlin

Publisher: Richard S. McPhee, Jason & Nordic, Pubs., PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1997

ISBN #: ISBN-0-944727-31-X

Disability: Blindness

Story Profile: Heather, who is blind, resists using her white cane until her puppy wanders off.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *There's a Blue Square on My Brother's School Bus*

Author: Sally Craymer

Publisher: The Wishing Room, Inc., PO Box 58, Studley, VA 23162; 1992

ISBN #: ISBN-0-931563-12-7

Disability: Disabilities

Story Profile: This book discusses various types of disabilities. An emphasis is placed on what children with disabilities are able to do and ways in which they can participate in mainstream student life.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *Thumbs Up, Rico!*

Author: Maria Testa

Publisher: Albert Whitman & Co., 6340 Oakton Street, Morton Grove, IL 60053-2723; 1990

ISBN #: ISBN- 0-8075-7906-8

Disability: Down Syndrome

Story Profile: Rico is a boy with Down syndrome who loves basketball. The story describes his relationship with a neighborhood boy named Caesar, his older sister Nina, and his art class.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *We Can Do It!*

Author: Laura Dwight

Publisher: Checkerboard Press, Inc., 30 Vesey St., New York, NY 10007; 1992

ISBN #: ISBN-1-56288-301-1

Disability: Disabilities

Story Profile: The daily activities of five children who each have either cerebral palsy, blindness, spina bifida, or Down syndrome. Color photographs show the children engaging in their favorite pastimes at



home and at school, with family members and with peers.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *We'll Paint the Octopus Red*

Author: Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen

Publisher: Woodbine House, Inc., 6510 Bells Mill Road, Bethesda, MD 20817; 1998

ISBN #: ISBN-1-890627-06-2

Disability: Down Syndrome

Story Profile: Ima is a little girl who has a new baby brother with Down syndrome.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *What About Me? When Brothers and Sisters Get Sick*

Author: Allan Peterkin, M.D.

Publisher: Brunner/Mazel Publishers, 19 Union Sq. West, New York, NY 10003; 1992

ISBN #: ISBN-0-94534-48-7 hardback; ISBN-0-945354-49-5 paperback

Disability: Chronic Illness

Story Profile: Laura is a young girl attempting to cope with her brother Tom's chronic illness. The story describes her wide range of emotions including guilt, fear, anger, anxiety, and a general sense of disruption of normal family life.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *When I Grow Up*

Author: Candri Hodges

Publisher: Jason & Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1995

ISBN #: ISBN-0-944727-26-3

Disability: Deafness

Story Profile: Jimmy is a deaf youth who takes a field trip and encounters various careers of deaf individuals.

Reading Level: JE

Title: *Where's Chimpy?*

Author: Berniece Rabe

Publisher: Albert Whitman & Co., 6340 Oakton Street, Morton Grove, IL 60053; 1988

ISBN #: ISBN-0-8075-8928-4

Disability: Down Syndrome

Story Profile: Misty, a young girl with Down syndrome, misplaced her stuffed monkey and reviews her day with her father to try to remember where she left him.

Reading Level: JE

Source: <http://www.teachervision.fen.com/learningdisabilities/reading/>