

Picture Books, Disability Awareness

for early childhood (EC), elementary (EL), and middle school (MS)

Just the Way I Am, God's Good Design in Disability by Krista Horning, using Bible verses and photographs of children with disabilities, the author helps children see God's purpose for their lives and His grace for all. The photographs are beautiful. (EC, EL)

In Jesse's Shoes by Beverly Lewis, a Christian book written from a sister's point of view regarding Autism and acceptance. Jesse's sister struggles with how to understand her brother and deal with the kids who make fun of him. (EL, MS)

You are Special by Max Lucado, a Christian book about acceptance and God's love for all of His children. Teachers/families can use this book to emphasize disability awareness, diversity, grace and kindness toward all people. (EL, MS)

Sign and Say Bible Verses for Children, a book of 30 Bible verses from both the Old and New Testaments that uses the hand motions of American Sign Language. (EC, EL, MS)

Someone Special Just Like You by Tricia Brown, a book for the very young that emphasizes what we all have in common. A wonderful introduction to disability awareness using photographs. (EC)

The Secret Code by Dana Meachen Rau, a Rookie Reader that focuses on using Braille in the classroom and friendships between classmates. (EC)

All Kind of Friends, Even Green by Ellen B. Senisi, a young boy who uses a wheelchair needs to write an assignment about a friend and focuses his paper on an iguana with missing toes. A delightful story that includes all of Moses' friends at school. Illustrations are photographs. (EC, EL)

We'll Paint the Octopus Red by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen, a discussion between a big sister and her dad about all the fun things she can do with her brother who was born with Down syndrome. (EC, EL)

Moses Goes to a Concert by Isaac Millman, a class of students who are deaf go on a field trip and enjoy a concert. They also get to meet the percussionist who is also deaf. Illustrations include sign language. (EC, EL)

My Brother Charlie by Holly Robinson Peete and Ryan Elizabeth Peete, a twin sister's take on how special her brother Charlie is to her and her family. (EL)

Zoom! by Robert Munsch, Loretta is a young daredevil who loves her new fast wheelchair and uses it to save her brother. (EL)

I Have a Sister My Sister is Deaf by Jeanne Whitehouse Peterson, answering basic questions some may have, a sister shares with others how her sister feels and deals with being deaf. (EL)

Thank You, Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco, a fantastic autobiography about a young girl who has a reading disability and the 5th grade teacher who helped her realize her value and gifts. (EL, MS)

Ethan and God, a children's book for hospital stays and illness by Sandra Brese Rice, many children with disabilities spend time in the hospital. This Christian book reminds any child who is ill that they are never alone. God is with them all the time, no matter how they are feeling. (EC, EL)