

Resource List for Ability Awareness
 Family & Community Resource Center
 Special School District of St. Louis County
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 St. Louis, MO 63131
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Accept and Value Each Person. Cheri J. Meiners (2006)

Ages 4-8. The world is becoming more diverse, and so are the daily lives of our children. Accepting and valuing people and groups who are different from oneself and one's immediate family is a critical social skill. This book introduces diversity and related concepts: respecting differences, being inclusive, and appreciating people just the way they are.

Activities for A Diverse Classroom: Connecting Students. (2003)

Offers teachers a variety of classroom activities designed to build acceptance, belonging and friendship among all students.

ADD: Stepping Out of the Dark. Lenae K. Madonna & Tom Demenkoff (1993) (video)

Based on actual accounts of those who have ADD, video allows the viewer to feel the frustration, the lack of attention, and the confusion ADD brings to many individuals. Story features perspectives from families, a doctor, an adult and educator and includes accounts compiled from those with ADD.

ADEPT (Awareness of Disabilities Elementary Program Training) curriculum and five videos

Implementation training, 59 minutes; Holli (hearing disability), 7 minutes; Joshua (developmental disability), 7 minutes; Marica (visual disability), 7 minutes; Pedro (physical disability), 7 minutes.

Anti-Bias Curriculum: Tools for Empowering Young Children. Louise Derman-Sparks (1989)

The 12 chapters of this book provide a rationale for an anti-bias curriculum, and discuss: (1) creating an anti-bias environment (2) working with 2-year-old children (3) learning about racial differences and similarities (4) learning about disabilities (5) learning about gender identity (6) learning about cultural differences and similarities (7) learning to resist stereotyping and discriminatory behavior (8) using activism with young children (9) using holiday activities in an anti-bias curriculum (10) working with parents.

Anybody Can Bake a Cake: A Motivational Workbook for Kids. Hennie Shore (1995)

The people profiled in this book have had great success, and many of them have also had great obstacles to overcome. They were chosen because their stories are inspirational.

Apple-Bites Commonsense Disability Strategies for Everyone. Katie Snow (2010)

This little book includes big ideas and commonsense strategies that can generate powerful, positive change in the lives of

As I Am, (video) (1990) (20 minutes)

Profiles three young people with disabilities and gives them a chance to speak for themselves. They talk about their lives, the problems they face and their hopes and dreams.

At the End of the Day: Lessons Learning in Inclusive Classrooms. (2001)

Encompasses eight case studies featuring diverse children with varying disabilities — from preschool to high school — that show how including them in the classroom affects families, teachers, and other students. These case studies, combined with the latest research, enable educators to evaluate different methods for inclusion

The Autism Acceptance Book: Being a Friend to Someone with Autism. Ellen Sabin (2006)

This book is much more than a book that teaches children about autism. It uses informative narrative and engaging activities to help them develop understanding, compassion, and appreciation for people different from themselves.

Autism: The Musical (DVD) (93 minutes) (2007)

Follows five children with Autism, their parents and their acting coach as they act out a full length stage production.

Because You Are My Friend. (video) (5 minutes)

Narrated by a child, this cartoon-like video provides young children with a simple and clear understanding about epilepsy.

Beyond Affliction: A Disability History Project. Public Broadcasting Audience Service. 4 part audiotape series. A four-hour documentary radio series about the shared experience of people with disabilities and their families since the beginning of the 19th century.

A Celebration of Differences (video). (1999) (22 minutes)

In this video, children and adults describe the strategies and experiences that aid them to succeed in a world that is often frustrating and confusing. They discuss their academic struggles, the empowerment that comes from understanding their issues and the determination that enables them to address life's continuing challenges.

Children's Understanding of Disability. Ann Lewis. (1995)

Taking the viewpoint of children themselves, it explores how pupils with severe learning difficulties and their classmates interact.

Color Me Successful, The Lab School Of Washington. (1998)

A coloring book featuring the winners of The Lab School "Outstanding Learning Disabled Achievers Award".

A Credo for Support (video). (1995) (7 minutes)

Video set to music offers a series of suggestions for people who care about and support someone with a disability. Prompt viewers to question common perceptions of disability, professionalism and support.

Dealing with Differences – Taking Action on Class, Race, Gender, and Disability. Angela Ellis and Marilyn Llewellyn. (1997)

A classroom tested action guide to dealing with issues and prejudice around class, race, gender and disability. The exercises, discussion topics and reading provide a framework to bring these complex issues out in the open as positive forces for

Developing Friendships: Wonderful People to Get to Know. (video) (2001)

Individuals with high-functioning Autism/Asperger's offer insights into their world. (DVD) (12 min)

Different Is Not Bad, Different Is the World: A Book About Disabilities. Sally L. Smith. (1994)

Grades 2-6. Children's book about learning and physical disabilities teaches empathy with those who are different from them and to recognize the value of all people.

Disability Awareness: Do It Right! Your all-in-one how-to guide: Tips, techniques & handouts for a successful Awareness Day from the Ragged Edge Online community. edited by Mary Johnson (2006)

Includes tips, techniques and handouts for a successful Awareness Day. Short background articles and planning lists help you organize fun and effective Awareness Day activities that disability rights activist's support.

Disability Awareness: A Guidebook for Families and Educators. (1997)

Provides basic information about many disabilities. The resource sections point readers to books, videos and organizations that provide further information about particular disabilities.

Disability Awareness Tool Kit: We're All Alike. We're All Different (2005)

For elementary age students, an activity book, two DVD's and poster.

Disability Awareness: 24 Lessons for the Inclusive Classroom. (1998)

Designed for use in an inclusive classroom, peer support program, or a volunteer program, this reproducible book shows students how to recognize and act with sensitivity toward those who are different from themselves.

Disability is Natural. Kathy Snow (DVD) (7 minutes) (2007)

Explores new ways of thinking about people with disabilities. When we think differently, we'll act differently: we can focus on ensuring children and adults with disabilities live natural lives as citizens in their communities, instead of clients in the service system.

DisabilityLand. Alan Brightman (2008)

Through a collection of stories and essays, answers the question are people with disabilities that different from other people.

Disability is Natural: Revolutionary Common Sense for Raising Successful Children with Disabilities. Kathie Snow. Disability, like gender, ethnicity and age- are simply one characteristic of being human. There have been people with disabilities in the world, and there will always be. When we recognize that disability is a natural condition of the human experience, new attitudes will lead us to new actions!

Disabled, Female and Proud! Stories of Ten Women with Disabilities Harilyn Russo, et al (1988)

Offers young women with disabilities empowering role models and the powerful message that they do not have to be or become any one thing because they are disabled and female. Gives parents and educators a unique way to help young people learn that making choices is what being disabled, female and proud is all about.

Discover the Possibilities: A Curriculum for Teaching Parent About Integration (1993).

Written to provide vision, information and strategies for the inclusion of children with disabilities into general education classes. Provides definition and provides a model to train parents, educators and other to the possibilities and the vision of desirable futures for the children.

Don't Laugh At Me Kit. (video, DVD and books). (2000)

A Movement to help create safe and caring environments for all our children – where they can grow to become responsible, compassionate citizens. Includes video, DVD with songs and teacher's guide.

Each & Every One — A Disability Awareness Program for Primary and Intermediate Grades (1989).

Package (one primary, one for intermediate) is designed to create an awareness of people with disabilities for student and for them to see that they are more alike than different.

Easter Seals: Project Action. (video) (15 minutes) (2003)

Easter Seals Project ACTION covering its mission, goals and resources. Spotlights basic information related to accessible transportation across the nation.

Ennis' Gift: A Film About Learning Differences (video) (52 minutes) (2000)

Video used by educators and parents to promote greater understanding and positive approaches towards children who learn differently.

Everybody Has A Song. (video) (2001)

Narrated by Henry Winkler, a touching straightforward presentation where he talks directly to children about their learning challenges and how to overcome them.

Everybody's Different: Understanding and Changing Our Reactions to Disabilities Nancy Miller and Catherine Sammons (1999).

Features awareness activities that show us how we see differences and help us enrich our interactions with people who have learning differences.

F.A.T. City: Frustration, Anxiety and Tension — How Difficult Can This Be? Rick Lavoie (video and DVD) (70 minutes) (1996)

Workshop simulates a classroom in which participants engage in a series of learning and language tasks headed by the workshop leader (Lavoie) who plays the role of the general education classroom teacher. The video recreates the LD experience first hand and simulates, sensitizes and enlightens adults to the pressures and frustrations experienced on a daily basis by children with learning disabilities.

A Framework for Understanding Poverty. Ruby K. Payne, PhD (2001)

Teaches the hidden rules of economic class and spreads the message that, despite the obstacles poverty can create in all types of interaction, there are specific strategies for overcoming them.

Friends Who Care — A Disability Awareness Program for Elementary Students (video) (45 minutes) (1990)

Complete teaching curriculum includes a 16-page teacher's guide, activity sheets, posters, a 45-minute videotape and bookmarks with disability etiquette tips. Explores the range within vision, hearing, developmental, learning and physical

Getting It: Persuading Organizations and Individuals to Be More Comfortable with People with Disabilities.

Melissa Marshall. (2002)

Chronicles the development of her formula for presenting disability diversity training. She takes us from inner city high school classroom to corporate training rooms as she explores various methods of having people "get it" about disability.

Going To School: Documentary Film about Empowering Children with Disabilities and their Families. (video) (64 minutes) (2001)

Provides a look at the daily experiences of students receiving special education services, and examines gains made by the Los Angeles Unified School District toward compliance with civil rights laws that guarantee a quality education for all

Guidelines: Practical Tips for Working and Socializing with Deaf-Blind People. (1994)

Workbook is designed for anyone interested in working or interacting with people who are deaf-blind, whether as a guide, facilitator, interpreter or friend.

How Big is the Fly? Asking the Right Questions. Bonnie Jean Smith (2007)

Strategies for communication with students and children.

How Big is Your Circle? A Musical Promoting Healing of Exclusion, Ridicule and Violence. (book and CD) Jeff Moyer (2000)

A flexible array of materials built around a musical, which addresses the problems of exclusion, ridicule and violence and their solutions within school communities. Materials include: script, choral and string orchestra score, individual string and choral parts, classroom activity guide and CD.

I Have Tourette's But Tourette's Doesn't Have Me. (2005) (DVD)

Children with Tourette's Syndrome, ages 8 to about 14, candidly describe what it's like to have Tourette's, a misunderstood neurological disorder. They show what their tics are like, talk about difficulties with school, social isolation, embarrassment, and feeling misunderstood and even unwanted due to the inherited condition they have no control over.

I'm Like You, You're Like Me: A Child's Book About Understanding and Celebrating Each Other. Cindy Gainer.

Ages 3-8. Simple words and illustrations help children discover and celebrate individual differences on their level: hair, families, body shapes, etc. (41 pages)

I'm Not Stupid. LDA (video)

Video depicts the constant battle of the child with learning disabilities in school. It points out how the child is often misdiagnosed as slow, retarded, emotionally disturbed or even just lazy.

I'm Tyler (Don't be Surprised). (DVD)

Short DVD is a fun, effective introduction to the concept of Ability Awareness for teachers, administrators, youth leaders or anyone who is around a lot of kids and cares.

In All Her Silence: Speaking for Beth. Phil Timp. Audiocassette (1998)

Phil Timp, father of Beth Timp, an adult with Rett's Syndrome, tells Beth's life-changing story through the presentation, "In All Her Silence".

Include Us! (video) (33 minutes)

Toddler to 11 year old. Shows children of different backgrounds, ages and abilities. Eight songs.

Including All of Us: An Early Childhood Curriculum About Disability (1984)

Inclusive curriculum – nonsexist, multicultural and includes images of children and adults with disabilities – can be integrated naturally into the early childhood learning environment. Guide tells how to do it and focuses on three preschool units: same/different, incorporating hearing impairment; body parts incorporating mobility visual impairment; and transportation, mobility impairment.

Information is Power – A Video for Youth with Disabilities (video) (10 minutes) (1998)

A creative youth-friendly presentation featuring five high school students and one young adult who discuss the importance of being knowledgeable about their disability or chronic illness.

Intricate Minds: Understanding Classmates with Asperger Syndrome (2006/video/12 minutes) (2005/DVD/12

Through interviews with students who have Asperger Syndrome (AS), this video offers an inside look at how teenagers with AS act, think and feel -- and how they're routinely treated.

Intricate Minds II: Understanding Elementary School Classmates With Asperger Syndrome (video) (16 minutes)

The program includes interviews with boys and girls aged 8 through 12 who describe what it's like to have Asperger

Intricate Minds III: Understanding Elementary School Classmates Who Think Differently (2006/video/17 minutes) (2006/DVD/18 minutes)

The program features interviews with boys and girls aged 8 through 12 who describe what it's like to have conditions that make them act differently from their peers in school. They reveal some of the positive qualities classmates will find if they look past these "different" behaviors.

It's Just Attention Deficit Disorder (video) (30 minutes) (1991)

Video helps professionals help youngsters and adolescents with ADHD to become active participants in their treatment. Filmed in an "MTV" format, video will hold the attention of even the most inattentive as it helps kids understand the definition of ADHD and the different kinds of interventions that are available. Includes advice from a former NBA coach and candid interviews with children with ADD.

It's O K to Be Different. Todd Paar. (2001)

Ages 4-8. Shows readers over and over that just about anything goes. From the sensitive ("It's okay to be adopted"--the accompanying illustration shows a kangaroo with a puppy in her pouch) to the downright silly ("It's okay to eat macaroni and cheese in the bathtub"), kids of every shape, size, color, family makeup, and background will feel included.

Jamie's Great Discovery: A Curriculum by ASHA (video) (1990) (10 minutes)

Ten-minute video with accompanying curriculum guide is a dramatization designed to sensitize third and fourth graders to classmates with communication problems.

Joyful Learning: Active and Collaborative Learning in Inclusive Classrooms. Alice Udvari-Solner and Paula Kluth
Promoting the concept that learners with differing abilities can learn side by side, this book illustrates how to use a practical, differentiated approach to help develop every student's abilities.

Jumpin' Johnny Get Back to Work! A Child's Guide to ADHD/Hyperactivity. Michael Gordon (1994) (video) (30

Video version is an animated cartoon that tells Johnny's story so cleverly even the most fidgety of youngsters will pay close attention. Children with ADHD learn about their difficulties in a format they will hold their attention and motivate them to become a part of the treatment process. Includes the book.

Just Because I Am: A Child's Book of Affirmation. Lauren Murphy Payne (1994)

Ages 3-8. An introduction to self-esteem.

Just Like Me & You: A Disability Awareness Curriculum Paraquad (1997)

Grades 3-5. Curriculum presents disability as a part of life and addresses commonly asked questions.

Keith Edward's Different Day: Different Is Just Different! (1992)

Pre-K. Helps young children to consider differences in a positive light.

Kidability (video) (1999) (25 minutes)

Children from the K-12 student audience host a disabilities awareness video with enough digital and MTV effects to hold interest.

Kids Belong Together. (video) (24 minutes) (1990)

This video stresses the importance of collaborative teams, circles of friends and mapping sessions in successful efforts to integrate children with special needs into mainstream schools.

Kids Just Want to Have Fun (video) (1998) (7 minutes)

Upbeat messages in this awareness video break stereotypes about children with physical differences.

Kids With Special Needs: Information and Activities to Promote Awareness and Understanding (1996)

Handbook for creating awareness activities.

Laying Community Foundations for Your Child With Disabilities – How to Establish Relationships That Will Support Your Child After You’ve Gone. (1996)

Practical guide shows families of children with developmental disabilities how to establish a network of non-paid people that can provide lasting relationships for their son or daughter.

LD Stories/On the Edge. (video)

Animated video set by Lab School Students describes what it is like to have learning disabilities.

Learning From Those We Support: A Disability Awareness Handbook (1999)

This book is about and for individuals with disabilities. It attempts to bridge the gap between the theory presented in many textbooks and the reality of providing day-to-day support to this population. The text attempts to describe what it might be like to live, work, play and learn as a person with a developmental disability.

Let's Learn About Deafness: Classroom Activities (1998)

Developed to help teachers and the children in their classes become more aware of hearing impairment and its implications.

Let’s Talk: People with Developmental Disabilities Speak Out. (1995)

Let the “real experts” tell you what it is like to live in our community if you happen to have a disability.

Listening To the Experts: Students with Disabilities Speak Out. Elizabeth B. Keefe, Ph.D., Veronica M. Moore, Ph.D., & Frances R. Duff (2006)

What’s the best way to find out what really works — and doesn’t work — in education for students with disabilities? Listen to the experts: the students themselves

Living My Own Life: Adults with Disabilities. (video) (25 minutes) (2000)

Highlights the lives of six persons with disabilities who each have succeeded in their own way in living fulfilling lives through advocacy, supports and most of all – careful planning.

Max and the Magic Pill. (video) (60 minutes) (1995)

This video looks at the struggle people with disabilities have encountered in fighting for equality. This video looks at one mans life in particular, who as a quadriplegic has fought the institutional system.

More Alike Than Different . (video) (8 minutes)

Ages 5-12. Features kids with chronic conditions at leisure and sport. By focusing on kids with epilepsy, asthma, diabetes, hearing loss and neurofibromatosis while they practice karate, camp out, play soccer and music, go scouting and drive go-carts, this children's awareness tool delivers the self-esteem message.

Multiple Intelligences in the Classroom. Thomas Armstrong (1994)

Describes how educators can bring Howard Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences into their classroom everyday.

The New Friends Program, Teachers' Manual, Trainers' Notebook and Video (video) (1983)

Designed to use with pre-school and kindergarten children to help them understand and accept individual differences. It is designed so teachers may expand regular classroom experiences to include positive role models of children and adults with disabilities

No Pity. Joseph Shapiro (1993)

A well-known journalist's account of the disability rights movement.

Not Better...Not Worse...Just Different. Sharon Scott (1992)

Ages 5 to 10. Nicholas and his friends creatively attack the obvious, and not so obvious, problems associated with the word prejudice. It comes in all sorts and differing circumstances. Children once exposed to Nicholas' concern for people will, in later years, bring greater hope and encouragement throughout the world (118 pages)

Oh, I See (video) (7 minutes)

Describes what it is like to have a visual impairment, provides simulations of low vision and discusses how vision loss may impact school performance.

Out of My Tears: Searching for the Answers to Our Disabilities. Linda Young (2007)

This is a book of poems about living with disability. They are poems I wrote to help me deal with my life.

Perske Pencil Portraits. (1998)

Collection of art of Martha Perske.

Please Stop Laughing at Me...One Woman's Inspirational Story. Jodee Blanco (2003)

Tells how school became a frightening and painful place, where threats, humiliation, and assault were as much a part of her daily experience as bubblegum and lip-gloss were for others. It is an unflinching look at what it means to be an outcast, how even the most loving parents can get it wrong, why schools fail, and how bullying is both misunderstood and mishandled.

The Power of Words: How We Talk about People with Autism Spectrum Disorders Matters! Judy Endow (DVD)

Captures the significance and intentions of word choices when discussing people with Autism.

Project Heroes Video and Manual from Churchill School and Center for Learning Disabilities (video) (1985) (29

Interviews with "heroes" who have learning disabilities: men and women of different ages, races and vocations.

Purple Hair, I Don't Care. Dianne Young (1995)

Preschool. Even when the doctor tells her that it might have purple hair, yellow eyes, green skin, and blue wings, Della Ragon is sure she will love her baby.

Put Yourself in Their Shoes: Understanding Teenagers with ADHD. Harvey C. Parker (1998)

Gives the reader a sense of what it is like to be an adolescent with ADHD. Contains up-to-date information on how ADHD affects the lives of adolescents at home, in school, in the workplace, and in social relationships.

A Rainbow of Friends. P.K. Hallinan. (2002).

Pre-K. With brilliantly colored marker illustrations demonstrates the timeless lesson of acceptance of others.

Reach For the Stars. (video) (1985) (17 minutes)

Presents awards to selected entertainers, athletes and scholars, etc who have accomplished great things in their fields in spite of learning disabilities. This presentation focuses on Cher, Tom Cruise, Bruce Jenner, G., Chris Anderson, Robert Rauchenberg and Richard Strauss.

A Regular Kid, That's Me! (video) (45 minutes)

Shows children with Tourette Syndrome ages 7-27 interacting with several teachers in classroom settings.

Respecting Our Differences: A Guide to Getting Along in a Changing World (1994)

Encourages young people to become more tolerant of others and savor the rich diversity of Americas changing culture.

Riding the Bus with My Sister: A True Life Journey. Rachel Simon (2002)

Beth spends nearly every day riding the buses in Philadelphia. The drivers, a lively group, are her mentors; her fellow passengers are her community. When Beth asks her sister Rachel to accompany her on the buses for one year, they take a journey together that changes Rachel's life.

Same Difference! (video) (1994) (25 minutes)

Features students with "visible" disabilities talking to their peers about their lives, their futures and the respectful treatment they expect from their community. Aimed at teen-age audience.

Sensitivity and Awareness: A Guide for Developing Understanding Among Children (1994).

Designed specifically as a resource for people who are concerned about helping children develop an understanding and ease with people who are different.

The Short Bus: A Journey Beyond Normal. Jonathan Mooney (2007)

This is a story about a young man coming to accept himself, but also a cautionary tale about what happens in schools, in the workplace, and in society when people fail to recognize that everyone is normal, just in different ways.

Small Differences (video) (1995)

Grades 4-12. Enlightens people of all ages about disabilities. Kids in the video, some with disabilities themselves, ask people with disabilities questions adults are too embarrassed to ask.

Somebody's Child: A Focus on Special Needs Children and Their Families. (video) (30 minutes) (1989)

Three families share their experiences caring for their children who range from premature twins, to children with multiple disabilities.

Soul Sunday: A Family's Guide to Exploring Faith and Teaching Tolerance. Carrie Brown-Wolff (2007)

Soul Sunday offers families a way to explore their faith while also understanding world religions. Colorful and interactive projects are outlined.

Speak Out for Understanding: Promoting Communication, Awareness, and Equity for People with Disabilities.

A student documentary about disability awareness. (DVD) (30 minutes)

Special People, Special Ways. Arlene Maguire (2000)

Kindergarten-Grade 2. Shares the message that even though being different is painful at times, it can also be glorious.

Special Stories for Disability Awareness: Stories and Activities for Teachers, Parents and Professionals. Mal Leicester (2007)

Ages 4-11. Collection of short stories, whose heroes and heroines are children with disabilities, will promote disability awareness and discussion among children.

Stop It, I Can't. (video) (13 minutes)

Awareness documentary for elementary ages written to create sensitivity and reduce ridicule for children with TS.

Take a Walk In My Shoes — A Guidebook for Youth on Diversity Awareness Activities. (1994)

Guidebook on diversity awareness activities to facilitate cultural diversity workshops.

Tools for Change: Self Advocacy – Freedom, Equality and Justice for All. (Video) (29 minutes) (1996)

Video, facilitators manual with discussion guide and participatory exercises

Understanding Families: Approaches to Diversity, Disability and Risk. Marci Hanson and Eleanor Lynch. (2003)

Combining research on families and family-centered services, text provides practical suggestions for caregivers, especially those whose children are at risk or have disabilities.

Unforgettable Pen Pal: A Story About Prejudice and Discrimination (video) (1987)

When A.J. and his pen pal Joey discover their mutual interest in basketball, they become best of friends. But the chance to finally meet one another at a professional game leads them to encounter prejudice where they least expect it. This video will help kids realize the negative effects of prejudice and the importance of forming their opinions about others intelligently.

We're All A Like, We're All Different Disability Awareness Tool Kit for Elementary Students (2005)

Provides students with an opportunity to gain a greater understanding and appreciation for people of all abilities.

We're All Different. Kirsten Hall (1999)

Ages 4 to 8. Although children are different in appearance, they all have ten toes, favorite clothes and love to play (31

We're People First...a Celebration of Diversity (book and CD) Jeff Moyer.

A collection of songs that celebrate diversity with joyful enthusiasm and also provokes thought about issues of human unity with ballads that touch the heart. Volume I designed to be used with elementary school age children. Volume II is teenager

What's the Difference. (video) (1998)

Disability awareness tool for grades K-5, this video offers positive images of children with various disabilities who are active and athletic.

Whoever You Are. Mem Fox.

Ages 3+. Every day all over the world, children are laughing and crying, playing and learning, eating and sleeping. They may not look the same. They may not speak the same language. And their lives may be quite different.

Why Are You Calling Me LD? Holly Parzych (1995)

Designed for use with students who have learning disabilities to explain what a learning disability is and to improve self-concept.

Why Does That Man Have Such a Big Nose? Mary Beth Quinsey. (1986).

PreK – Age 6. Famous book about differences among people and the questions children ask about them.