

Resource List for Early Childhood Awareness
 Family & Community Resource Center
 Special School District of St. Louis County
 12110 Clayton Road
 St. Louis, MO 63131
 314-989-8438/989-8108/989-8194

All Kinds of Friends, Even Green! Ellen Senisi (2002)

Kindergarten-Grade 4. When his teacher gives an assignment to write about a friend, seven-year-old Moses considers classmates, neighbors, parents, and teachers before finally deciding on Zak, his teenage neighbor's iguana, because she is different yet determined, like him. (14 pages)

Arnie and the New Kid. Nancy Carlson (1990)

Grades K to 3. When an accident requires Arnie to use crutches, he begins to understand the limits and possibilities of his new classmate, who has a wheelchair (14 pages)

Autism: Being Friends (video) (8 minutes) (1991)

Autism awareness video produced specifically for young children. Portrays the abilities of the child with autism and describes ways in which peers can help the child to be a part of the everyday world.

Big Brother Dustin. Alden R. Carter (1997)

Ages 4 to 8. A boy with Down Syndrome helps his parents and grandparents get ready for the birth of his baby sister and chooses the perfect name for her (13 pages)

The Big Orange Splot. D. Manus Pinkwater (1977)

Pre-K to grade 2. When a seagull drops a can of orange paint on his neat house, Mr. Plumbean gets an idea that affects his entire neighborhood (32 pages)

Boy On the Bus. Diana Loski (1994)

Pre-K to grade 3. Cory has trouble concentrating. Margo is worried about her neighbor after he falls and hurts himself. She

Buddy's Shadow. Shirley Becker (1991)

Juvenile. Buddy, who is five, has Down Syndrome, and is in need of a friend all his own, saves his money and buys a puppy

A Button In Her Ear. Ada Bassett Litchfield (1976)

Ages 5-9. Story about Angela, a school-age child who misinterprets what people say to her. Her hearing loss is described from the initial diagnosis, audiology testing and fitting of a hearing aid to final daily living and acceptance.

Captain Tommy. Abby Ward (1999)

Book for young children is the account of Tommy, who reluctantly agrees to play with someone new whom he perceives to be different; a boy who has autism. Story follows Tommy through his initial questions and finally to his success in making a new friend.

Chrysanthemum. Kevin Henkes (1991)

Ages 4-8. Chrysanthemum loves her name, until she starts going to school and the other children make fun of it (14 pages)

Cosmo Gets An Ear. Gary Clement (1994)

Ages 4-8. Little boy helps families or friends understand what it's like to wear a hearing aid

Danny and the Merry Go Round. Nan Holcomb (1984)

Ages 4-8. When Danny, who has cerebral palsy, is faced with another frustrating and boring day at the playground watching, instead of doing, something unexpected happens. He finds a new friend and learns something about himself. With his new friend beside him, he handles being afraid and enjoys a wonderful new experience (15 pages)

Different Just Like Me. Lori Mitchell (1999)

Grades 1 to 6. Over the course of the week, April observes the many differences between herself and the people she encounters. (15 pages)

The Early Prevention Storybook Series. (2001)

Grades Pre K- 4. In each book in this series, an animal loses the very thing he or she is known for and then regains it with the help of some simple, but sound, advice.

The Lion Who Lost His Roar (fear) (53 pages)

The Hyena Who Lost Her Laugh (attitude) (53 pages)

The Penguin Who Lost Her Cool (anger) (59 pages)

The Bear Who Lost His Sleep (worry) (53 pages)

The Rabbit Who Lost His Hop (self-control) (55 pages)

The Chimp Who Lost Her Chatter (shyness) (55 pages)

Ethan and Phoebe: A Child's Book About Autism. Deborah Ann Moore (2003)

Ages 4-8. Big sister Phoebe offers a glimpse into her world and that of her little brother Ethan who has autism.

Even Little Kids Get Diabetes. 1994.

Ages 4-8. A young girl who has had diabetes since she was two years old describes her adjustments to the disease (13 pages)

Friends at School. Rochelle Bunnett (1995)

Ages 4 to 8. Shows that given the opportunity, children readily accept each other's differences. Emphasizes in a relaxed, natural way that even though some children may look different and have different abilities, all children like to do the same things (29 pages)

He's My Brother. Joe Lasker (1974)

Ages 4 to 7. A young boy describes the experiences of his brother with a developmental disability at school and at home (40 pages)

Here Comes Kate! Judy Carlson (1989)

Grades K to 3. A girl in a wheelchair learns when to go fast and when to slow down (30 pages)

How About A Hug? Nan Holcomb (1983)

Grades K-5. Story of a little girl with Down Syndrome as she shares her day, her tasks, and her hugs (15 pages)

Howie Helps Himself. Joan Fassler (1975)

Ages 4-8. Though he enjoys life with his family and attends school, Howie, a child with cerebral palsy, wants more than anything else to be able to move his wheelchair by himself (14 pages)

I Can't Always Hear You. Joy Zelonsky 1996)

Story of Kim, a student who is nervous about attending her public school, but realizes there are differences in everyone.

I Have a Sister, My Sister is Deaf. Jeanne Whitehouse Peterson (1984)

Ages 4-8. Explains the abilities of a sister with a hearing impairment and how she can say more with her face and shoulders than most people can with words.

I Love My Brother! A Preschooler's View of Living with a Brother Who Has Autism. (2001)

Book for young siblings and as a guide for helping preschool and kindergarten-aged students better understand their peers with autism

Include Us! (video) (33 minutes)

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

It's OK 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.

Joey and Sam. Illana Katz and Edward Ritvo (1993)

Storybook for children focuses on a family with two sons, one of which has autism. The book addresses their similarities and differences, as it follows them through daily interactions with each other, parents and friends.

Join In and Play (Learning to Get Along) (2004)

Ages 4-8. It's fun to make friends and play with others, but it's not always easy to do. You have to make an effort, and you have to know the rules—like ask before joining in, take turns, play fair, and be a good sport. (35 pages)

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

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

Little Rain Man. Karen Simmons (1997)

Grades K-5. Describes Simmons' son's like and dislikes, feelings and achievements, and ways he prefers to be treated by the adults in his life. (71 pages)

The Littlest Tall Fellow. Barry Rudner (1989)

Ages 5 to 8. A modern day fairy tale about effort, about the endeavor and about all of us (26 pages)

Looking After Louis. Lesley Ely and Polly Dunbar (2004)

Grade 1-4. Louis has autism, but through imagination, kindness, and a special game of soccer, his classmates find a way to

Moses Goes to a Concert. Isaac Millman (1998)

Early elementary. Moses and his schoolmates, who are all hearing impaired, attend a concert where the orchestra's percussionist is also deaf (37 pages)

My Brother Is Very Special. Amy May (2004)

Grades K-3. A story to share with young children learning to accept a classmate, friend, or sibling with special needs (20 pages)

My Friend Emily. Suzanne Swanson (1994)

K through 5. Emily has epilepsy and explains to her friend Kay what it means (34 pages)

My Friend Isabelle. Eliza Woloson (2003)

Ages 2 to 6. Isabelle and Charlie are friends. They both like to draw, dance, read, and play at the park. They both like to eat

No Fair to Tigers. Eric Hoffman (1999)

Ages 4-8. This story about Mandy, a girl with a disability, and her stuffed tiger shows how they ask for fair treatment and solutions to the problems they encounter. Includes activity and teaching ideas (26 pages)

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)

Patrick and Emma Lou. Nan Holcomb (1989)

Ages 4-8. Despite his excitement over walking with a new walker, three-year-old Patrick finds it isn't easy and becomes discouraged until his new friend, six-year-old Emma Lou who has spina bifida, helps him discover something important about himself (29 pages)

People. Peter Spier (1980)

Ages 4-8. Emphasizes the differences among the four billion people on earth.

Princess Pooh. Kathleen Muldoon. (1989)

Grades K to 4. Jealous of her sister's royal treatment as she sits in her wheelchair, Patty Jean tries out the conveyance and discovers life in a wheelchair is no fun at all (32 pages)

Putting on the Brakes: Young People's Guide to Understanding Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. Patricia O. Quinn, M.D. and Judith M. Stern (2001)

Ages 8-13. All you need to know about attention deficit disorder, with or without hyperactivity: what is it and what to do about it. This resource for young people, their parents and professional's covers "What's going on in the brain?" "What are you feeling?" "Getting Support" "Getting Organized" "Making Friends" and "Understanding Medication".

Quick, Quack, Quick! Marsha Arnold (1996)

Pre-K to grade 1. "Quick, Quack, quick!" his mama urges, but Quack is still the slowest duckling in the barnyard. Nothing can make him hurry. Then, one day, Cat comes a-hunting, and Quack's less than lickety-split ways help save the day (32 pages)

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

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

Russ and the Almost Perfect Day. Janet Elizabeth Rickert (2001)

Ages 4-8. Russ, a student with Down syndrome, is having a perfect day until he realizes that the five-dollar bill he has found probably belongs to a classmate (25 pages)

Russell Is Extra Special: A Book About Autism for Children. Charles A. Amenta III (1992)

An "awareness" book written by a physician who is the father of Russell.

Seeing Things My Way. Alden Carter (1998)

Ages 4 to 8. A second-grader describes how she and other students learn to use a variety of equipment and methods to cope with their visual impairments (29 pages)

Taking A.D.D. to School: A School Story About Attention Deficit Disorder And/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. Ellen Weiner (1999)

Ages 9-12. Ben is having trouble in school. It's hard to concentrate and his teachers always tell him to pay attention. A trip to the doctor reveals that Ben has Attention Deficit Disorder. Written for children from Ben's perspective, this book is well suited for reading aloud in the classroom. (24 pages)

Taking Asthma to School. Kim Gosselin (1995)

Grades 1-5. This book allows classmates to view children with asthma as normal kids who just happen to have asthma, through no fault of their own. (18 pages)

Taking Autism to School. Andreanna Edwards (2001).

Ages 5-10. This is a fictional story about a girl named Angel and her friendship with Sam, a classmate who has autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Taking Cerebral Palsy to School. Mary Anderson (2000)

Grades 1-5. This book allows classmates to get a better understanding of cerebral palsy through the narrative of a young boy (23 pages)

Taking Cystic Fibrosis to School. Cynthia Henry and Kim Gosslein (2000)

Grades 1-5. Jessie explains to her classmates that even though she has cystic fibrosis, she can still attend school. (24 pages)

Taking Depression to School. Kathy Khalsa (2002)

Ages 5 to 10. Emily lives with childhood depression. With therapy and medication, she learns how to manage her sometimes overwhelming feelings. (22 pages)

Taking Down Syndrome to School. Jenna Glatzer (2002)

Grades 1-5. Nick has Down Syndrome and his story helps readers understand what Down Syndrome is and how it affects him. (22 pages)

Taking Dyslexia to School. Laura Moynihan (2002)

Ages 5 to 10. A young boy with dyslexia has trouble with his school work and shares with the reader how difficult school has been for him. With help from his teachers and parents, he learns new techniques for school success (18 pages)

Taking Food Allergies to School. Ellen Weiner (1999)

Grades 1-5. Jeffery and his mom deal with food allergies at school. Topics include sharing lunches, special parties, and events and appropriate snacks (20 pages)

Taking Hearing Impairment to School. Ellen Weiner (2004)

Ages 5-10. Jacob's life is filled with friends, school, family, sports, and pets - and he has a profound hearing loss. Through his story, readers learn about sign language, interpreters, hearing aids, and speech therapy for kids with hearing impairments.

Taking Seizure Disorders to School: A Story About Epilepsy. Kim Gosselin (1996)

Grades 1-5. This story dispels the myths and fears surrounding epilepsy in a positive, upbeat, and entertaining style while explaining seizures. (23 pages)

Taking Speech Disorders to School. John Bryant (2004)

Grades 1-5. Most kids know someone with a speech disorder. Michael's story helps them understand the cause and effects of his disorder and how speech therapy helps him communicate more clearly (22 pages)

Taking Tourette Syndrome to School. Tia Krueger (2001)

Ages 5 to 10. Megan has Tourette syndrome. Her story will help other children understand that her tics are not something she can control, but rather, a part of her life (22 pages)

Taking Visual Impairments to School. Rita Steingold (2004)

Grades 1-5. Lisa's story helps kids understand how children with visual impairments, including blindness, adapt and manage their surroundings.

Taking Weight Problems to School. Michelle Dean (2005)

Ages 5-10. This book follows the journey of Tina, a likeable young girl with a weight problem. (30 pages)

Thumbs Up, Rico! Marie Testa (1994)

Ages 4 to 8. In three separate stories, a boy with Down syndrome makes a new friend, helps his sister with a difficult decision, and finally draws a picture he likes (37 pages)

Tobin Learns to Make New Friends. Diane Murrell (2001)

Preschool. A great tool for learning one of the most basic social skills, this colorful picture book is quite effective in teaching social skills to children with autism, Asperger's Syndrome, and other pervasive developmental disorders. Readers follow Tobin, a train, as he learns to make friends and engage in proper social activities Preschool. (31 pages)

Trevor, Trevor. Diane Twachtman-Cullen, PhD (2003)

Ages 7-13. Offers a metaphorical story that relates how Trevor is misunderstood and then accepted by his classmates.

Understand and Care. Cheri Meiners (2003)

Ages 4-8. Helps children to understand that other people have feelings like theirs and different from theirs. It guides children to show they care by listening to others and respecting their feelings. (35 pages)

Very Special Critter. Mercer Mayer (1993)

Ages 4-8. The new student in Little Critter's class uses a wheelchair, and he is worried. Will his classmate be very different? Will the class know how to act around him? It's an honest, realistic look at ways kids deal successfully with the unknown. (23 pages)

A Walk in the Rain with a Brain. Edward Hallowell, MD (2004)

Ages 4-8. Lucy meets a brain that helps her realize that everyone is smart in different ways. (30 pages)

We'll Paint the Octopus Red. Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen (1998)

Pre-K-2nd grade. Emma and her father discuss what they will do when the new baby arrives, but they adjust their expectations when he is born with Down Syndrome. (25 pages)

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 pages)

We're Different, We're the Same. Bobbi Kates (1992)

Pre-K to grade 1. Characters from Sesame Street teach young children about racial harmony. (32 pages)

When I Grow Up. Candri Hodges (1995)

K-5. Jimmy, who is hearing impaired, attends career day where he meets adults with hearing impairment and who have varied and interesting careers. (32 pages)

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 Am I Different? Norm Simon (1993)

Ages 4 to 8. This book portrays everyday situations in which children see themselves as 'different' in family life, preferences, and aptitudes, and yet, feel that being different is all right (31 pages)

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.