

Resource List for Ability Awareness

SSD Family & Community Resource Center

Parent Education & Diversity Awareness

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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. (40 pages)

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

Aunt Katie's Visit. Katie Rodriguez Banister. (2003)

Katie Rodriguez Bannister survived a car accident in 1990. She began speaking to high school students about her life, and wrote this book about being a 'woman on wheels' This book is designed to help parents discuss a specific disability. Teachers can use it as a source of discussion about disability awareness

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

Ages 6-13. 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. (61 pages)

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

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

Autism Vision: Creating Classroom Connections for Children with Autism. (DVD & VHS) (2007) (14 minutes)

Ages 8-11. Developed to foster the social inclusion of children with Autism in general education.

Autism Vision: Creating Classroom Connections for Teens with High-Functioning Autism and Asperger Syndrome. (DVD) (2007) (14 minutes)

Ages 12-15. Developed to foster the social inclusion of teens with HFA or Asperger Syndrome in general education.

Autistic? How Silly is That: I Don't Need Any Labels at All. Lynda Farrington Wilson. (2012)

Ages 4 and up. Tells children with autism they are KIDS with autism, as it gently pokes fun of the onerous label "autistic".

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

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

Best Friends on Wheels. Debra Shirley. (2008)

Ages 5-8. A book for children everywhere to see that, beyond every disability, is a person just like them – a person who might just be their new best friend.

The Cage of the Different People: A Story of Brotherly Love. Benjamin Valdivia. (2012)

School Age. Little Carla does not move as fast as the other children in school. Instead of helping her, they separate her from

Can I Tell You About ADHD? A Guide for Friends, Family and Professionals. Susan Yarney. (2013)

Ages 7 and up. Ben invites readers to learn about ADHD from his perspective.

Can I Tell You About Asperger Syndrome? Jude Welton (2003)

Ages 7-15. Meet Adam - a young boy with AS. Adam invites young readers to learn about AS from his perspective. (48 pages)

Can I Tell You About Dyslexia: A Guide for Friends, Family and Professionals. Alan M Hultquist. (2013)

Ages 7 and up. Excellent way to start a discussion about dyslexia, in the classroom or at home. 56 pages.

Can I Tell You About OCD: A Guide for Friends, Family and Professionals. Amita Jassi. (2013)

Ages 7 and up. Shows family, friends and teachers how they can support someone with the condition and will be an excellent way to start a conversation about OCD, in the classroom or at home. 48 pages.

Can I Tell You About Stammering: A Guide for Friends, Family and Professionals. Sue Cottrell. (2013)

Ages 7 and up. Illustrated book is full of useful information and will be an ideal introduction for young people, as well as parents, friends, teachers and speech therapists working with children who stammer. 44 pages.

Celebrating Diversity: A Universal Message from the Real Rain Man. National Professional Resources, Inc. (27 minutes) (DVD)

Resource for staff development, parent training and/or for use with students in grades 5-12 as part of a character education unit. Meet Kim Peek, The Real Rain Man, observe him interact with students and demonstrate his unique gifts. Through his life's story, viewers will learn about accepting differences in others, developing tolerance and fostering a greater understanding of diversity.

Certain Proof: A Question of Worth. (DVD) (2012) (60 minutes)

Feature documentary about three children living with significant communication and physical disabilities, who struggle against the public schools in an emotional battle to prove their worth.

Choosing To Be A GFF (Good Friend Forever). (DVD) (2014)

The voices of students with autism/ASD in 6th through 8th grade are the highlights of this 16-minute cutting-edge film.

Developing Friendships: Wonderful People to Get to Know. (DVD) (2001) (12 minutes)

Individuals with high-functioning Autism/Asperger's offer insights into their world.

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. Pacer Center (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.

A Disability History of the United States. Kim E Nielsen. (2012)

Illustrates how concepts of disability have deeply shaped the American experience—from deciding who was allowed to

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

Explores new ways of thinking about people with disabilities. When we think differently, we'll act differently: we can focus

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!

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 Judge Me, Be My Friend: Understanding Individuals with Special Needs. Susan Shiver. (2016)

Written to help create understanding on how to provide emotional and physical support to students with special needs, who are being educated in an inclusive classroom setting.

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.

Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofose Yeboah. Laurie Ann Thompson & Sean Qualls. (2015)

Ages 4-8. Born in Ghana, West Africa, with one deformed leg, he was dismissed by most people—but not by his mother, who taught him to reach for his dreams. As a boy, Emmanuel hopped to school more than two miles each way, learned to play soccer, left home at age thirteen to provide for his family, and, eventually, became a cyclist. He rode an astonishing four hundred miles across Ghana in 2001, spreading his powerful message: disability is not inability.

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

Strategies for communication with students and children.

How Can I Be A Good Friend to Someone With Autism / Choosing to Be A GFF (Good Friend Forever). (DVD) (2 films, 16 minutes each)

Grades K-5 & 6-8. Two films that promote autism awareness and acceptance by showing students what it is like for their peers with autism and how they can interact with them.

How Can We All Play? Severe disAbility in PE. (DVD) (2002) (35 minutes)

Witness first-hand what the staff at Grant Wood Elementary has put together over the past 15+ years with input from staff, consultants, retirees, PE teachers, families, and students to create fun, safe multi-sensory activities and equipment that encourage a friendly, positive environment where students of all abilities can and want to play together and become friends.

How Difficult Can This Be? The F.A.T City Workshop: Understanding Learning Disabilities. Rick Lavoie (DVD) (1996) (70 minutes)

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.

How Katie Got a Voice, and a Cool New Nickname. Patricia L Mervine. (2012)

School aged. Katie has significant physical disabilities which make her dependent on a Personal Care Assistant for everything, even communicating. When Katie is introduced to assistive technology, she is finally able to communicate with her new friends. As a result, the students are delighted to see her as a person with many interests and abilities, just like them. (40 pages)

I am Special: A Workbook to Help Children, Teens and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders to Understand Their Diagnosis, Gain Confidence and Thrive. Peter Vermeulen (2013)

Designed for a child to work through with an adult - parent, teacher or other professional.

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

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,

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.

Ido in Autismland: Climbing Out of Autism's Silent Prison. Ido Kedar. (2012)

In his essays, author Ido Kedar, a brilliant sixteen year old with autism, challenges what he believes are misconceptions in many theories that dominate autism treatment today while he simultaneously chronicles his personal growth in his struggles

In My World. Jillian Ma. (2017)

Preschool- Grade 5. A simple, heartfelt story that follows the life of a child with autism through his imaginative journey as he seeks to be accepted, loved, and celebrated for his strengths and abilities. 29 pages

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

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 (DVD) (2006) (16

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

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

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.

Joyful Learning: Active and Collaborative Learning in Inclusive Classrooms. Alice Udvari-Solner & 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.

Just Because. Rebecca Elliott. (2010)

Ages 5 and up. A younger brother describes all the fun he has with the big sister he loves so much—just because, in this heartwarming picture book about being perfectly loved, no matter what.

Just Because I Can't Talk, Doesn't Mean I Don't Have Anything to Say. Holly Fiscus Forlenza. (2013)

The pages of this book feature words written by Holly. For almost twenty-two years, this beautiful, curious and silent woman had wisdom trapped in her body. For anyone who has ever felt silenced, oppressed, abandoned, scared and invisible, this book will bring you strength and encouragement

Lives Worth Living: The Great Fight for Disability Rights. (DVD) (2011) (54 minutes)

Traces the development of consciousness of disability rights pioneers who realized that in order to change the world they needed to work together to secure equal civil rights for all people with disabilities.

Out of My Mind. Sharon M Draper. (2011)

Ages 10 and up. Melody cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom—the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged, because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow. (320 pages)

Parallels in Time & The Learning Center. (CD-ROM) (1996)

Two-volume cd-rom was produced to preserve in a usable and educational format, the history of people with disabilities and the Council's 25 year history.

Perske Pencil Portraits. (1998)

Collection of art of Martha Perske.

Possibilities, Disabilities & the Arts. Keri Bowers (DVD) (67 minutes)

Shows how we can use the arts to improve social and life skills, language, cognition, physical and emotional well-being, and create potential career paths for those with special needs.

Rachael, Being Five. (DVD) (28 minutes)

Ages 4-8. Follows a year in the life of Rachael, who has cerebral palsy. Excellent viewing for young children, teachers and

Rachael in Middle School. (DVD) (28 minutes)

Ages 8 and up. An extraordinary opportunity to see Rachael six years later as she enters middle school. Still an amazingly charismatic young person, Rachael is beginning to have trouble keeping her work organized, or maybe she's just like everyone else trying to keep her assignments straight.

Real Life Teens: Teens & Disabilities. (DVD) (2007) (18 minutes)

Grades 8-12. Teens learn the many different ways in which disabilities can manifest in people and how they should treat and

Remarkable Books About Young People with Special Needs: Stories to Foster Understanding. Allison Follos (2013)

Describing more than 100 stories featuring characters who have disabilities—from physical disabilities, ADHD, Asperger's syndrome, and dyslexia to survivors of psychological or physical trauma—the guide points to narratives that can help make these conditions understandable and familiar.

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.

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.

The Special Needs Acceptance Book: Being a Friend to Someone with Special Needs. Ellen Sabin. (2007)

Interactive, educational, and character-building book that introduces children to the challenges faced by people with special needs while also supporting their personal journey toward appreciating and respecting people's differences.

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.

Swim Team: To Level the Playing Field, They Had to Get in the Water. PBS. DVD (2017)

The parents of a boy on the autism spectrum take matters into their own hands, forming a competitive swim team, recruiting teens on the spectrum and training them with high expectations and zero pity. Watch the extraordinary rise of the Jersey Hammerheads, capturing a moving quest for inclusion, independence, and a life that feels winning. 100 minutes.

Understanding Families: Approaches to Diversity, Disability and Risk. Marci Hanson & 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.

Valuing Lives: Wolf Wolfensberger and the Principle of Normalization. (DVD) (56 minutes)

Through archival images and footage, and dozens of interviews, “Valuing Lives” explores the principle of normalization, an idea that challenged our fundamental assumptions about people with intellectual disabilities, and the iconoclastic professor whose intense, multi-day workshops trained thousands of human services professionals in the theory and practice of this idea

We Can Shine: From Institutions to Independence. Adrian Esposito (DVD) (2010)

In his search to understand his own disability, Asperger's Syndrome, the filmmaker explores what it would have been like for him had he been born in 1944. This documentary is about the state of institutions for the developmentally disabled in New York State

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

Wendy on Wheels Goes to the Zoo. Angela Ruzicka. (2010)

Ages 3-10. Emphasizes the importance of including all children in school activities.

Wendy On Wheels Takes a Stand. Angela Ruzicka. (2011)

Ages 5-11. Entertaining and educating story about dealing with bullying. Discussion questions are featured in the back of the book, along with a printable anti-bully sign.

When Carrots Ruled the World. David LeBarron. (2012)

Ages 5 and up. In this quirky story, the carrots welcome everyone, even bunnies, and accept them for being exactly who they want to be!

Whoever You Are. Mem Fox. (1997)

Ages 3 and up. 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. (32 pages)

Wretches & Jabberers. (2010) (DVD) (94 minutes)

Two men with autism embark on a global quest to change prevailing attitudes about disability and intelligence.