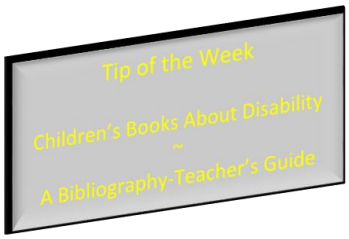


Silver Linings Foundation .org

NJ Division of Disability Services

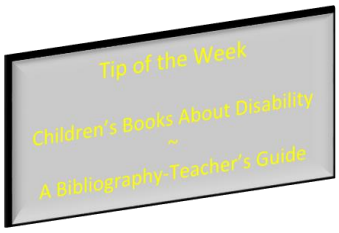
Children's Books About Disability ~ A Bibliography-Teacher's Guide

This book list was created for teachers or anyone who is looking for children's books on disabilities.

The list is a terrific resource and categorizes books by age groups and by disability.

PRESCHOOL Ages Infant to 5

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)	Deafness & Hearing Impairment
Amputee and Congenital Limb Malformation	Developmental Disability
Asthma & Allergies	Diabetes
Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) &	Down's Syndrome
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	Epilepsy
Autism & Asperger's Syndrome	General Disabilities
Blindness & Visual Impairments	Learning Disability, Dyslexia, Reading Disability
Brain Injury	Mental Illness
Cancer	Mental Retardation
Cerebral Palsy	Mobility and Disability / Service Animals
Child Abuse	Parkinson's Disease
Chronic Illness	Spina Bifida
Communication Disorders - Articulation Impairments	Tourette Syndrome
Cystic Fibrosis	Death and Dying
Deaf- Blind	



Silver Linings Foundation .org

DDS NJ Division of Disability Services

GRADE SCHOOL Ages 6 to 11

Accidents & Injuries	Developmental Disability
Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)	Diabetes
Alcoholism	Down's Syndrome
Alzheimer's Disease	Dwarfism / Short Stature
Amputee and Congenital Limb Malformation	Epilepsy
Arthritis	General Disabilities
Asthma & Allergies	Learning Disability, Dyslexia, Reading Disability
Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) &	Mental Illness
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	Mental Retardation
Autism & Asperger's Syndrome	Mobility and Disability / Service Animals
Blindness & Visual Impairments	Muscular Dystrophy
Brain Injury	Paralysis
Cancer	Polio
Cerebral Palsy	Psychology
Chronic Fatigue Syndrome	Spina Bifida
Communication Disorders - Articulation Impairments	Tourette Syndrome
Deafness & Hearing Impairment	Death and Dying

MIDDLE SCHOOL Ages 11 TO 14

Amputee and Congenital Limb Malformation	Deafness & Hearing Impairment
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)	Developmental Disabilities
Arthritis	Diabetes
Asthma & Allergies	Down's Syndrome
Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) &	Dwarfism / Short Stature
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	General Disabilities
Autism & Asperger's Syndrome	Learning Disability, Dyslexia, Reading Disability
Blindness & Visual Impairments	Mental Retardation
Brain Injury	Mobility and Disability / Service Animals
Cancer	Paralysis
Cerebral Palsy	Perception Disorders / Impairments
Cystic Fibrosis	Polio
Deaf- Blind	Death and Dying

Children's Books About Disability

A Bibliography-Teacher's Guide

Created by Alicia Brodsky
Information and Referral Specialist
Office of Information and Assistance
New Jersey Division of Disability Services
P.O. Box 700
Trenton, NJ 08625
(609) 292-7800 (888) 285-3036 TTY: (609) 292-1210
Fax: (609) 292-1233
www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds

Updated September 16, 2005

Forward

This bibliography was compiled as a resource for teachers and other interested parties searching for children's literature which addresses disabilities. The Division of Disability Services does not endorse any of the material contained herein and provides this information resource for information purposes only.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GUIDES TO CHILDREN'S DISABILITIES BOOKS 5

PRESCHOOL Ages Infant to 5 6
- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) 6
- Amputee and Congenital Limb Malformation 6
- Asthma & Allergies 6
- Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) & Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) 6-7
- Autism & Asbergers Syndrome 7-8
- Blindness & Visual Impairments 8
- Brain Injury 8
- Cancer 9
- Cerebral Palsy 9
- Child Abuse 10
- Chronic Illness 10
- Communication Disorders - Articulation Impairments 10
- Cystic Fibrosis 10
- Deaf- Blind 11
- Deafness & Hearing Impairment 11-12
- Developmental Disability 12
- Diabetes 12
- Down's Syndrome 12-13
- Epilepsy 13
- General Disabilities 14-15
- Learning Disability, Dislexia, Reading Disability 15
- Mental Illness 15
- Mental Retardation 15-16
- Mobility and Disability / Service Animals 16
- Parkinson's Disease 16
- Spina Bifida 16
- Tourette Syndrome 16
- Death and Dying 17

GRADE SCHOOL Ages 6 to 11 18
- Accidents & Injuries 18
- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) 18
- Alcoholism. 18
- Alzheimer's Disease 18
- Amputee and Congenital Limb Malformation 18
- Arthritis 18-19
- Asthma & Allergies 19
- Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) & Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) 19-20
- Autism & Asbergers Syndrome 20-22
- Blindness & Visual Impairments 22-23
- Brain Injury 23
- Cancer 24
- Cerebral Palsy 24-25
- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome 25
- Communication Disorders - Articulation Impairments 25-26
- Deafness & Hearing Impairment 26-27
- Developmental Disability 27

Diabetes 27-28
Down's Syndrome 28
Dwarfism / Short Stature 28
Epilepsy 28
General Disabilities 29-31
Learning Disability, Dislexia, Reading Disability 31-32
Mental Illness 33
Mental Retardation 33
Mobility and Disability / Service Animals 34
Muscular Dystrophy 34
Paralysis 34-35
Polio 35
Psychology 35
Spina Bifida 35
Tourette Syndrome 35
Death and Dying 35-37

MIDDLE SCHOOL Ages 11 TO 14 38
Amputee and Congenital Limb Malformation 38
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) 38
Arthritis 38
Asthma & Allergies 38
Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) & Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) 38-39
Autism & Asbergers Syndrome 39
Blindness & Visual Impairments 39-40
Brain Injury 40-41
Cancer 41
Cerebral Palsy 41-42
Cystic Fibrosis 42
Deaf- Blind 42
Deafness & Hearing Impairment 42-43
Developmental Disabilities 43
Diabetes 43
Down's Syndrome 43
Dwarfism / Short Stature 43-44
General Disabilities 44-45
Learning Disability, Dislexia, Reading Disability 45-46
Mental Retardation 46-47
Mobility and Disability / Service Animals 47
Paralysis 47
Perception Disorders / Impariments 48
Polio 48
Death and Dying 48-49

NINE WAYS TO EVALUATE CHILDREN'S BOOKS 50-51

SOURCES 52

Bibliography, Children Books about Disability

Books with Listings of Children's Disability Books

Azarnoff, Pat. Health, Illness, and Disability: A Guide to Books for Children and Young Adults. New York: R.R. Bowker. 1983.

Baskin, Barbara H. and Karen H. Harris. More Notes from a Different Drummer: A Guide to Juvenile Fiction Portraying the Disabled. New York, NY: R.R. Bowker. 1986.

Brest Friedberg, Joan. Accept Me As I Am: Best Books of Juvenile Nonfiction on Impairments and Disabilities. New York: R.R. Bowker, 1985.

Brest Friedberg, Joan. Portraying Persons with Disabilities. New Providence NJ: R. R. Bowker, 1992.
Summary: An Annotated Bibliography of Nonfiction for Children and Teenagers.

Corlin, Margaret, Jeannine Laughlin, and Richard Saniga. Understanding Abilities, Disabilities, and Capabilities: A Guide to Children's Literature. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited. 1991.

Gillespie, John Thomas. Best Books for Children: Preschool Through the Middle Grades (5th ed.). New York: R.R. Bowker. 1994.
Summary: This book includes several listings under the categories of "Diseases and Other illnesses" and "Physical and Mental Disabilities."

Hecker, Helen. Children's Disability Bookstore Catalog. Vancouver, WA: Twin Peaks Press. 1994.

Quicke, John. Disability in Modern Children's Fiction. Cambridge, MA: Brookline Books. 1985.

Robertson, Debra. Portraying Persons with Disabilities. An Annotated Bibliography of Fiction for Children and Teenagers. New Providence, NJ: R.R. Bowker, 1992.

Sprederman Dreyer, Sharon. The Bookfinder 4: When kids Need Books: Annotations of Books Published 1983 Through 1986. Circle Pines, MN: American Guidance Service. 1989.
Summary: This book is organized by topic, many of which are disability-related, such as "allergies," "asthma," "ADD," and so on.

PRESCHOOL Ages Infant to 5

(* Can be used for Grade School also)

Disability Listing:

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)

Sanford, Doris. David Has AIDS. Portland, OR: Multnomah, 1989.
Summary: A little boy with AIDS turns to God to help him cope with the pain, fear, and loneliness that surround him.

Verniero, Joan C. You Can Call Me Willy. A Story for Children about AIDS. New York, NY: Brunner/Mazel Publishers, 1995.
Summary: Willy is an 8-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. **(Note: This was the only children's book selected by ABC's "Good Morning America" for its Millennium Time Capsule, buried at Times Square.)**

Amputee and Congenital Limb Malformation

Caseley, Judith. Harry and Willy and Carrothead. West Caldwell, NJ: Greenwillow Books, 1991.
Summary: A boy, born without a lower left arm, stands up for a quiet classmate and wins over the class bully. The three become good friends.

Riggio Heelan, Jamee. The Making of My Special Hand: Madison's Story. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree, 2000.
Summary: A young girl recounts the process of obtaining and learning to use her prosthetic hand.

Asthma & Allergies

Rogers, Alison. Luke Has Asthma, Too. Burlington, VT: Waterfront Books, 1987.
Summary: Luke has an older cousin who teaches him some aspects of asthma management and serves as a general role model.

Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) & Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

Corman, Clifford L. and Esther Trevino. Eukee: The Jumpy Jumpy Elephant. Plantation, FL: Specialty Press, 1995.
Summary: Eukee is a smart little elephant who likes to chase butterflies, blow bubbles, and do cartwheels. He always feels jumpy inside, however, and can never finish the march at school. Unhappy that he doesn't have any friends, he consents to a visit to the doctor where he learns he has ADD.

Galvin, Matthew. Otto Learns about His Medicine: A Story about Medication for Hyperactive Children, Third edition. New York, NY: Magination Press/Brunner Mazel, 2001.
Summary: Otto, a fidgety young car that has trouble paying attention in school, visits a special mechanic who prescribes a medicine to control his hyperactive behavior. The newest edition contains an expanded note to parents with more detailed information about using medication for children with ADD.

Moss, Deborah M. Shelley: The Hyperactive Turtle. Rockville, MD: Woodbine House, 1988.
Summary: Shelley is a young hyperactive turtle who faces difficulties due to his inability to sit still and his frequent behavior problems which lead to problems at school and on the bus, at home and

with friends, eventually leading to a poor self-image and depression. After a visit to a neurologist, he no longer thinks of himself as a bad turtle and his condition gradually improves.

Nemiroff, Marc A. and Jane Annunziata. Help is on the Way: A Child's Book About ADD. Washington, DC: Magination Press, 1998.
Summary: This colorful book provides information to kids about the nature of ADD and various strategies for coping with ADD.

Watson, Robyn. The ADDed Touch. Harrisburg, PA: Silver Star Publications, 2000.
Summary: Matthew is in first grade and has trouble remembering, paying attention, and making friends. His teacher and doctor find that he has attention deficit disorder, and Matthew learns strategies to help himself in class and with his friends. He meets some friends who also have ADD.

Zimmett, Debbie. Eddie Enough!. Bethesda, MD: Woodbine House, 2001.
Summary: Eddie has had a particularly rough day at school. He has had trouble paying attention, he bumps into things, and some kids in his class make fun of him. After he visits the doctor and learns he has ADD, his parents and teachers help him come up with strategies for improving his days at school.

Autism & Asbergers Syndrome

Amenta, Charles A. III, M.D. Russell Is Extra Special: A Book about Autism for Children. New York, NY: Brunner/Mazel, Publishers, 1992.
Summary: 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.

Dolby Nollette, Cindy and Others. Having a Brother Like David. Minneapolis, MN: Minneapolis Children's Medical Center, Early Childhood Center, 1985.
Summary: Marty's brother, David, is autistic. Marty explains that David looks a lot like other children but has special needs.

Katz, Illana and Edward Ritvo. Joey and Sam. West Hills, CA: Real Life Story Books, 1993.
Summary: Sam is 5 and has autism, and Joey is his 6-year-old brother. They describe an ordinary day at home and at school, showing some of the ways they are different and alike.

Lears, Laurie. Ian's Walk: A Story About Autism. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman and Company, 1998.
Summary: 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.

Murrell, Diane. Tobin Learns to Make Friends. Arlington, TX: Future Horizons, 2001.
Summary: Tobin the train engine has trouble understanding social situations and therefore has trouble making friends. Each short sections addresses a different skill, such as personal space, shouting and manners, and highlights how Tobin can use short rules to help him remember various social skills.

Thompson, Mary. Andy and His Yellow Frisbee. Bethesda, MD: Woodbine House, Inc., 1996.
Summary: 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. Rose knows that Andy is in his own world most of the time, and that he has trouble finding the words to express himself.

Watson, Esther. Talking to Angels. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace, 1996.
Summary: 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.

Blindness & Visual Impairments

Bill, Martin and John Archambault. Knots on a Counting Rope. New York, NY: Henry Holt, 1995.
Summary: A boy is told a story by his grandfather of a boy born blind.

Chamberlin, Kate. The Night Search. Hollidaysburg, PA: Richard S. McPhee, Jason & Nordic, Pubs., 1997.
Summary: Heather, who is blind, resists using her white cane until her puppy wanders off.

Cohen, Miriam. See You Tomorrow, Charles. New York, NY: Yearling, 1989.
Summary: Charles is a first grader who is adjusting to school as a blind student.

Day, Shirley. Luna and the Big Blur: A Story for Children Who Wear Glasses. New York, NY: Magination Press, 1995.
Summary: Luna resents the fact that she needs glasses to correct her nearsightedness.

Karim, Roberta. Mandy Sue Day. New York, NY: Clarion, 1994.
Summary: Today is Mandy Sue's turn to be excused from farm chores, so she spends the day riding and talking to her horse Ben. And Mandy Sue manages everything by herself, even though she is blind.

Kroll, Virginia L. Naomi Knows It's Springtime. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press Inc., 1987.
Summary: Naomi tells us of the signs of spring through the mind of the blind.

Lang, Glenna. Looking Out for Sarah. Boston, MA: National Braille Press, 2001.
Summary: Told from a guide dog's perspective, this book shows the relationship between a guide dog and a young woman who is blind.

Strom, Maria Diaz. Rainbow Joe and Me. New York, NY: Lee and Low Books, 1999.
Summary: Eloise loves to paint pictures in bright colors that she describes for her elderly blind neighbor Rainbow Joe. Joe tells her he too can make colors sing and one Sunday he surprises her with his music.

Westcott, Patsy. Living with Blindness. Austin, TX: Raintree Steck-Vaughn Publishers, 1999.
Summary: Blindness affects different people different ways, but it doesn't stop them from enjoying the same activities as sighted persons. This title features three people with blindness leading active, enjoyable lives.

Brain Injury

Parker, Vicki Sue. The Get Well Soon… Balloon!. Wake Forest, NC: Lash and Associates Publishing, 2005.
Summary: This story captures the emotions and perspective of the upheaval in a child's world when a parent has a brain injury. It will help family members guide children in their understanding of the effects of brain injury.

Cancer

Amadeo, Diana M. There's a Little Bit of Me In Jamey. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Co., 1989.
Summary: Brian struggles with the fact his brother Jamey has leukemia and submits to a bone marrow test which leads to a transplant.

Krisher, Trudy. Kathy's Hats: A Story of Hope. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Co., 1992.
Summary: Kathy is a young girl who develops cancer and loses her hair as a result of chemotherapy.

Cerebral Palsy

Carter, Alden R. Stretching Ourselves: Kids with Cerebral Palsy. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman and Company: 2000.
Summary: Profiles three young students with cerebral palsy, showing how they live their lives like kids without cerebral palsy. It includes a description of cerebral palsy and explains why kids with cerebral palsy often have extra exercises and sometimes operations.

De Bear, Kirsten. Be Quiet, Marina!. Long Island City, NY: Star Bright Books, Incorporated, 2001.
Summary: A noisy little girl with cerebral palsy and a quiet little girl with Down Syndrome learn to play together and eventually become best friends.

Holcomb, Nan. Patrick and Emma Lou. Hollidaysburg, PA: Jason and Nordic Publishers, 1992.
Summary: 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, Emma Lou, who is six and has spina bifida, they both discover something very important about each other. For children with Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida.

Holcomb, Nan. Andy Opens Wide. Hollidaysburg, PA: Jason and Nordic Publishers, 1990.
Summary: 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.

Holcomb, Nan. A Smile from Andy. Hollidaysburg, PA: Jason and Nordic Publishers, 1989.
Summary: 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.

Holcomb, Nan. Danny and the Merry-Go-Round. Hollidaysburg, PA: Jason and Nordic, Publishers, 1987.
Summary: 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.

Lears, Laurie. Nathan's Wish: A Story About Cerebral Palsy. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 2005.
Summary: Nathan struggles with cerebral palsy. Fire, a wounded owl that Nathan and his neighbor save, finds renewed interest in life while showing Nathan that even with physical limitations, there are important ways to help.

Riggio Heelan, Jamee. Rolling Along: The Story of Taylor and His Wheelchair. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree, 2000.
Summary: A young boy enjoys his new mobility with his first wheelchair.

Yates, Sarah. Can't You Be Still?. Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada: Gemma B. Publishing Inc., 1992.
Summary: Ann, who has cerebral palsy, attends school for the first time.

Child Abuse

Winn, Christine M. and David Walsh, Ph.D. Clover's Secret. Minneapolis, MN: Fairview Press, 1996.
Summary: Clover attempts to hide family violence. She feels much better when she confides in her teacher and the family receives help.

Chronic Illness

Mills, Joyce C., Ph.D. Little Tree: A Story for Children with Serious Medical Problems. New York, NY: Brunner/Mazel Publishers, 1992.
Summary: A small tree that loses some branches in a storm is used to illustrate the questions and feelings children may experience during and after medical problems.

Peterkin, Allan, M.D. What About Me? When Brothers and Sisters Get Sick. New York, NY:
Summary: 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.

Communication Disorders - Articulation Impairments

De Geus, Eelco. Translated by Elisabeth Versteegh-Vermeij. Sometimes I Just Stutter. Memphis, TN: Stuttering Foundation, 1999.
Sumarry: This nonfiction book contains information for children who stutter, including helpful hints and information on how to teach others about their stuttering. Sample letters are enclosed that can be given to parents, teachers, and friends that explain what strategies are helpful to a person who stutters.

Holcomb, Nan. Sarah's Surprise. Hollidaysburg, PA: Jason and Nordic Publishers, 1990.
Summary: 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.

Page, Terry and Bob Love. The Bob (Butterbean) Love Story. Chicago, Illinois: Boo Books, Inc., 1995.
Summary: Bob's autobiography tells his story: a famous basketball player with a speech impediment.

Schaefer, Charles E., Ph.D. Cat's Got Your Tongue?. New York, NY: Brunner/Mazel, Publishers, 1992.
Summary: Anna, a kindergartner, is diagnosed as an electively mute child.

Steinsdottir, Kristin. Armann and Gentle. Memphis, TN: Stuttering Foundation of America, 1997.
Summary: A 6-year-old boy, Armann, stutters when he is frustrated.

Cystic Fibrosis

Arnold, Katrin. Anna Joins In. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1983.
Summary: Anna is a young girl who has a difficult pattern to her days because she has cystic fibrosis.

Deaf-Blind

Adler, David A. A Picture Book of Helen Keller. New York, NY: Holiday House, 1990.
Summary: 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.

Deafness & Hearing Impairment

Adler, David A. Thomas Alva Edison: Great Inventor. New York, NY: Holiday House, 1996.
Summary: Thomas Edison's life and his many inventions, despite his deafness, that shape our lives today.

Chorest, Susan with Susan Stock. Herbie Hears the Horn: The Journey of a Young Deaf Child from Silence to Sound. Washington, DC: Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, 2001.
Summary: Herbie is a young child with a hearing impairment. When he gets hearing aids, he can suddenly hear all the sounds around him.

Hill, Eric. Where's Spot. New York, NY: Putnam Publishing Group, 1988.
Summary: Spot's more colorful than ever! With a striking new cover to show him off, this lift-the-flap paperback has Spot's mom looking for her lost puppies -- especially Spot. But where is he? Little readers will have a bow-wow-wonderful time looking for the popular pooch, too. Flaps conceal the animals and diagrams showing how to form the Signed English signed for each word of the text accompany the text.

MacKinnon, Christy. Silent Observer. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press, 1993.
Summary: 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 in trying to understand and be understood by hearing individuals.

Millman, Isaac. Moses Goes to School. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000.
Summary: Moses has a great day with his friends and teacher at a school for students with hearing impairments. The story is told in text, pictures, and American Sign Language.

Millman, Isaac. Moses Goes to a Concert. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998.
Summary: Moses and his classmates, who are hearing impaired, attend a concert and learn a surprising fact about the percussionist who performs. The story is told in text, pictures, and American Sign Language.

Millman, Isaac. Moses Goes to the Circus. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003.
Summary: Moses, who is deaf, and his family are going to the circus. It is the Big Apple's Circus of the Senses with acts specially designed for the deaf and hard of hearing and the blind. Moses' little sister, Renee, isn't deaf but is learning sign language, Moses loves teaching her and illustrations of some of the signs they use are included.

Hoffman Levi, Dorothy. A Very Special Friend. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press, 1989.
Summary: Frannie, a lonely little girl, discovers a new friend when a deaf girl her age moves in next door.

Hoffman Levi, Dorothy. A Very Special Sister. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press, 1992.
Summary: Mixed feelings are experienced by Laura, a young deaf girl, upon finding out her mother will soon give birth. Her initial excitement is displaced by worries that the new child, if able to hear, would be more lovable.

Slier, Debby. Word Signs. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press, 1995.
Summary: Provides words, illustrations, and sign language for common objects.

Whitehouse Peterson, Jeanne. I Have a Sister - - My Sister is Deaf. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 1977.
Summary: A girl tells about the everyday activities of her younger, hearing impaired sister. Based on the author's own experiences. (also available in Chinese)

Developmental Disability

Klayman, Gail. Our New Baby Needs Help: A Coloring Book for Families Whose New Baby Has Problems. Omaha, NE: Centering Corporation, 1996.
Summary: Along with pictures to color comes a story about a family whose new baby needs to stay in the hospital.

Kraus, Robert. Leo the Late Bloomer. New York, NY: Harper Collins, 1971.
Summary: Leo is a tiger cub who just can't keep up with what the other animals are doing. He can't read, write, or speak, and he is a sloppy eater; he's a late bloomer.

Diabetes

Mulder, Linnea. Sarah and Puffle: A Story for Children about Diabetes. Washington, DC: Magination Press, 1992.
Summary: 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.

Down's Syndrome

Becker, Shirley. Buddy's Shadow. Hollidaysburg, PA: Jason and Nordic Publishers, 1991.
Summary: Buddy, a 5-year-old boy with Down Syndrome, purchases a puppy.

Carter, Alden R.. Big Brother Dustin. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Co., 1997.
Summary: Dustin, a young boy with Down syndrome, learns that his parents are expecting a baby.

De Bear, Kirsten. Be Quiet, Marina!. Long Island City, NY: Star Bright Books, Incorporated, 2001.
Summary: A noisy little girl with cerebral palsy and a quiet little girl with Down Syndrome learn to play together and eventually become best friends.

Fleming, Virginia. Be Good to Eddie Lee. New York, NY: Putnam, 1993.
Summary: 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.

Girnis, Meg. 1, 2, 3 for You and Me. Morton Grove, IL: Whitman, 2001.
Summary: This simple counting book introduces numbers from 1 to 20 using photographs of children with Down syndrome. Companion to ABC for You and Me (2000).

Glatzer, Jenna. Taking Down Syndrome to School. Plainview, NY: JayJo Books, 2002.
Summary: Nick talks about living with Down Syndrome. He tells about playing with friends, going to school, and working with his speech therapist.

Holcomb, Nan. How About A Hug. Hollidaysburg, PA: Jason and Nordic Publishers, 1987.
Summary: 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.

Kneeland, Linda. Cookie. Hollidaysburg, PA: Jason and Nordic, Publishers, 1989.
Summary: Molly, a 4-year-old girl with Down Syndrome, has difficulty talking. Her frustration with communication difficulties is relieved when someone comes to teach her sign language.

Rabe, Berniece. Where's Chimpy?. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Co., 1988.
Summary: 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.

Rickert, Janet Elizabeth. Russ and the Almost Perfect Day. Rockville, MD: Woodbine House, 2001.
Summary: Recent book in a series about Russ, a boy with Down syndrome, who has a great day going to school and playing with friends. He takes responsibility for a mistake and feels good about himself when he does the right thing.

Rickert, Janet Elizabeth. Russ and the Apple Tree Surprise. Rockville, MD: Woodbine House, 1992.
Summary: 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.

Rickert, Janet Elizabeth. Russ and the Fire House. Rockville, MD: Woodbine House, 1992.
Summary: 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 fireman thank Russ for his hard work and invite him back for another visit.

Stuve-Bodeen, Stephanie. We'll Paint the Octopus Red. Bethesda, MD: Woodbine House, Inc., 1998.
Summary: Emma is a little girl who has a new baby brother with Down syndrome.

Widess Berkus, Clara. Charlsie's Chuckle. Rockville, MD: Woodbine House, 1992.
Summary: Charlsie, a 7-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.

Woloson, Eliza. My Friend Isabelle. Rockville, MD: Woodbine House, 2003.
Summary: A young boy named Charlie describes the activities he shares with his friend Isabelle, a girl with Down Syndrome.

Epilepsy

Moss, Deborah M. Lee: The Rabbit with Epilepsy. Rockville, MD: Woodbine House, 1989.

Summary: Lee is a young rabbit who experiences occasional blackouts and trances. After Dr. Bob, the wise owl, administers a series of neurological tests, Lee is told she has epilepsy.

General Disabilities

Asare, Meshack. Sosu's Call. LaJolla, CA: Kane/Miller Book Publishers, 2002.
Summary: Sosu is a young boy with a physical disability who lives in Ghana. He feels left out of many village activities until he is called upon to show his strength.

Brown, Tricia and Fran Ortiz. Someone Special, Just Like You. New York: NY: Henry Holt & Company, Incorporated, 1984.
Summary: Brown and Ortiz show that the differences that seem to separate children with handicaps from others are not important. What is important is the common delight in life--a desire to love, learn and play, and to be accepted for themselves as other children are.

Carlisle, Kim. The Special Raccoon. Far Hills, NJ: Small Horizons, 1994.
Sumarry: This is a story that will help the reader gain an understanding of what it means to be physically and mentally challenged.

Dwight, Laura. We Can Do It!. New York, NY: Checkerboard Press, Inc., 1992.
Summary: 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.

Exley, Helen. What It's Like to Be Me. New York, NY: Friendship Press, 1984.
Summary: 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.

Gainer, Cindy. I'm Like You, You're Like Me: A Child's Book about Understanding and Celebrating Each Other. Minneapolis, MN: Free Spirit Publishing, Inc., 1998.
Summary: 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.

Holcomb, Nan. Andy Finds a Turtle. Hollidaysburg, PA: Jason and Nordic Publishers, 1992.
Summary: Andy enjoys physical therapy most of the time, but somethimes he doesn't. One day he's told he acts like a turtle with his legs and arms drawn in tight - but Andy doesn't know what a turtle is, so he goes in search of one. In this search he protects his baby sister from a strange invader and discovers something important about himself.

Holcomb, Nan. Fair and Square. Hollidaysburg, PA: Jason and Nordic Publishers, 1988.
Summary: 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.

Manus Pinkwater, Daniel. Big Orange Spot. Danbury, CT: Scholastic Paperbacks, 1992.
Summary: The Big Orange Splot is a marvelous example of individuality.

Melberg Schwier, Karen. Keith Edward's Different Days. San Luis Obispo, CA: Impact Publishers,

1988.
Summary: Keith meets a variety of people with differences, including Down syndrome and physical differences, and learns that being different is okay.

Thomas, Pat. Don't Call Me Special: A First Look at Disability. Hauppauge, NY: Barrons Juveniles, 2002.
Summary: Younger children can find out about individual disabilities, special equipment that is available to help the disabled, and how people of all ages can deal with disabilities and live happy and full lives.

Turner Brabham, Barbara. My Mom Is Handicapped: A "Grownup" Children's Book. Virginia Beach, VA: Cornerstone Publishing, 1994.
Summary: A 6-year-old boy describes life with his mother, a teacher with physical disabilities.

Yin. Dear Santa, Please Come to the 19th Floor. New York, NY: Philomel, 2002.
Summary: Willy wants to make this Christmas special for his best friend now that Carlos is in a wheelchair. So he e-mails Santa asking him to bring a gift to Carlos in his apartment on the nineteenth floor.

Learning Disability, Dislexia, Reading Disability

Cutbill, C. Jean and Diane Rawsthorn. Happy Birthday Jason. Toronto, Ontario, Canada: IPI Publishing Ltd., 1984.
Summary: 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.

Dwyer, Kathleen M. What Do You Mean I Have a Learning Disability?. New York, New York: Walker and Company, 1991.
Summary: 10-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.

Levinson, Dvora, Ph.D. Kevin's Story. Toronto, Ontario, Canada: IPI Publishing Ltd., 1984.
Summary: Kevin exhibits reading problems and is referred for testing with a psychologist who explains reading and learning disabilities to him and his family.
Reading Level: Pre School and Grade School

Moynihan, Lauren E. Taking Dyslexia to School. Plainview, NY: JayJo Books, 2002.
Summary: Matt explains his dyslexia and tells about strategies he uses in school. Includes a list of tips for teachers.

Root, Ann and Linda Gladden. Charlie's Challenge. Austin, TX: Printmaster Press, 1995.
Summary: Charlie excels at some school activities but struggles with other school activities. After his doctor determines that he has a learning disability, his teacher implements some learning strategies that help Charlie's performance and confidence.

Mental Illness

Grass, Gayle. Catch a Falling Star: A Tale from The Iris Dragon Series. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada: Dollco Printing, Iris the Dragon Inc., 2001.
Summary: A boy named Fish is beginning to feel anxious and confused. He finds a friend in gentle Iris the Dragon, and as their friendship progresses Iris teaches Fish techniques for dealing with his

mental illness. Iris encourages Fish to visit the doctor, and he eventually enters a clinic but writes letters to Iris until he returns home.

Mental Retardation

Ren Wright, Betty. My Sister is Different. Austin, TX Steck-Vaughn Company, 1990.
Summary: Carlo tells us what it is like to have an older sister with mental retardation.

Shriver, Maria. What's Wrong with Timmy?. New York, NY: Time Warner Trade Publishing, 2001.
Summary: When Kate meets Timmy, a boy who is mentally disabled, she is full of questions. After talking with her mother, Kate realizes that she and Timmy have a lot in common and they become fast friends.

Thompson, Mary. My Brother, Matthew. Rockville, MD: Woodbine House, 1992.
Summary: David is a young boy who describes life with his younger brother who was born with a mental disability.

Mobility and Disability / Service Animals

Apel, Melanie Ann. Let's Talk about Being in a Wheelchair. New York, NY: Rosen Publishing Group, Incorporated, 2003.
Summary: Addresses such topics as who uses a wheelchair, how their used, famous people who use wheelchairs, wheelchair access, wheelchair sports, and many other topics regarding wheelchairs.

Muldoon, Kathleen M. Princess Pooh. Morton Grove, IL: Whitman, 1989.
Summary: Patty Jean tries her older sister's wheelchair and discovers it's not the royal throne she imagined.

Munsch, Robert N. Zoom!. Danbury, CT: Sholastic, 2003.
Summary: When Lauretta's mother takes her shopping for a new wheelchair, Lauretta wants one that goes really fast. The store lets her have a 92-speed dirt bike model for home testing, and then Laurette's adventures begin.

Parkinson's Disease

Gosseling, Kim. Patrick Learns About Parkinson's Disease. Plainview, NY: JayJo Books, 2002.
Summary: Patrick and Mr. Jennings are neighbors and good friends. Mr. Jennings is having some trouble walking and his hands shake. When he visits the doctor, he learns he has Parkinson's disease.

Spina Bifida

Holcomb, Nan. Patrick and Emma Lou. Hollidaysburg, PA: Jason and Nordic Publishers, 1994.
Summary: 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, Emma Lou, who is six and has spina bifida, they both discover something very important about each other. For children with Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida.

Senisi, Ellen B. All Kinds of Friends, Even Green!. Bethesda, MD: Woodbine House, Inc., 2002.
Summary: The teacher gives Moses and his class an assignment to write about a friend. His friend Katie has an iguana named Zaki who is missing toes, making it hard for her to walk and climb. Moses decides to write about Zaki because he and Zaki have a lot in common. They both have special needs. More than just a story about friendship, this book looks at difference in a clever yet subtle way.

Tourette Syndrome

Krueger, Tira. Taking Tourette Syndrome to School. Plainview, NY: JayJo Books, 2002.

Summary: An informative story about Tourette Syndrome, told from the point of view of a child who has Tourette syndrome.

Death and Dying

Bartoli, Jennifer. Nonna. New York: Harvey House, 1975.
Summary: This story shows the continuance of everyday family life despite grandmother's death. Although everyone misses grandmother, her spirit is kept alive through the family members' affectionate memories. Baking grandmother's special Christmas cookies helps ease everyone's sadness.

Brandenberg, A. The Two of Them. West Caldwell, NJ: Greenwillow Books, 1979.
Summary: A loving grandfather creates objects, songs, and stories for his granddaughter. When he is confined to a wheelchair, the child takes care of him. After his death she hurts "inside and out."

DePaola, Tomie. Nana Upstairs and Downstairs. New York, NY: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1973.
Summary: Four-year-old Tommy's bedridden grandmother dies. Tommy's mother urges him to keep her alive in his memories. A falling star is interpreted as a kiss from Nana Upstairs. Years later, Tommy recalls the star and thinks of his Nana Downstairs.

Donahue, Mike. The Grandpa Tree. Lanham, MD: Roberts Rinehart, Inc., 1988.
Summary: Beautifully illustrated tale of the lifecycle of a tree. The story covers the life of the tree, from the time a seed is dropped by a bird, grows,and finally turns to sawdust, makes a home for new trees, and becomes a seed again.

Jordan, Marykate. Losing Uncle Tim. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 1989.
Summary: When his beloved Uncle Tim dies of AIDS, Daniel struggles to find reassurance and understanding and learns that his favorite grown-up has lift him a legacy of joy and courage.

Stiles, Norman. I'll Miss You Mr. Hooper. New York, NY: Random House, 1984.
Summary: The Sesame Street family helps Big Bird handle his emotions when he forgets that Mr. Hooper has died. Includes helpful notes to parents.

Thomas, Jane. Saying Good-bye to Grandma. New York, NY: Clarion Books, 1988.
Summary: When her Grandma dies, 7-year-old Suzie goes back with her parents to visit the small town where her Mother grew up to attend Grandma's funeral.

Varley, Susan. Badger's Parting Gifts. New York, NY: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1984.
Summary: Wise old Badger's sole regret about dying is the grief his friends will feel. Badger's death is portrayed in a dream state as a "walk down a long tunnel." The memory of Badger lives on as his friends recall the countless ways Badger has enriched their lives.

Wise Brown, Margaret. The Dead Bird. New York, NY: Young Scott Books, 1958.
Summary: Four young children find a dead bird and decide to give it a funeral. They visit the dead bird's grave for several days but gradually forget him. This book handles death in a caring but not overly intense manner.

Zolotow, Charlotte. My Grandson Lew. New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1974.

Summary: Lew and his mother share their memories of grandfather who died several years before. This book portrays the keen memories young children often have for the significant people in their lives.

GRADE SCHOOL AGES 6 TO 11

Disability Listing:
Accidents & Injuries

Beck, Andrea. Elliot's Emergency. Tonawanda, New York: Kids Can Press, Limited, 1998.
Summary: In his rush to get out the door, the stuffed toy, Elliot Moose, rips open the seam on his leg. All his toy friends try to fix him before all his stuffing comes out.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)

Katz, Illana. Uncle Jimmy. West Hills, CA: Real Life Storybooks, 1994.
Summary: Six-year-old Jason is upset when he discovers that his beloved Uncle Jimmy has AIDS, but he feels better after visiting his uncle in the hospital and hearing more about his condition.

Walvoord Girard, Linda. Alex, the Kid with AIDS. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 1991.
Summary: Alex, a fourth grader with AIDS, makes a new friend and learns that although he is sick, he can't misbehave in school.

Alcoholism

Tabor, Nancy Maria. Bottles Break. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge Publishing, Inc., 1999.
Summary: A child describes how it feels when his mother drinks. Includes sources of help for children whose parents are alcoholics.

Alzheimer's Disease

Bahr, Mary and Kathleen Tucker (Editor). Memory Box. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 1995.
Summary: When Gramps realizes he has Alzheimer's disease, he starts a memory box with his grandson, Zach, to keep memories of all the times they have shared.

Maria Shriver. What's Happening to Grandpa?. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Company, 2004.
Summary: From New York Times bestselling author Maria Shriver comes a poignant and compassionate story about one family coping with Alzheimer's disease and memory loss.

Amputee and Congenital Limb Malformation

Mills, Joyce, PhD. Little Tree: A Story for Children with Serious Medical Problems. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2001.
Summary: Although she is saddened that storm damage has caused her to lose some of her branches, Little Tree draws strength and happiness from the knowledge that she still has a strong trunk, deep roots, and a beautiful heart.

Arthritis

Peacock, Judith. Juvenile Arthritis: Perspectives on Disease and Illness. Mankato, MN: Capstone Press, 1999.
Summary: Discusses the types of arthritis, the treatment and complications of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, and research related to this disease.

Striegel Jana. Homeroom Exercise (Story of a Young Dancer with Rheumatoid Arthritis). New York, NY: Holiday House, Inc., 2002.

Summary: When eleven-year-old Regan begins to suffer from juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, she must face the possibility that her dream of being a professional dancer may never come true.

Totorica Aldape, Virginia. Nicole's Story: A Book about a Girl with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publishing Group, 1995.
Summary: An eight-year-old girl talks about what her life is like with the disease of JRA or juvenile rheumatoid arthritis.

Asthma & Allergies

Carter, Alden R. and Siri Carter. I'm Tougher Than Asthma. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Company, 1996.
Summary: A young girl talks about her life and her asthma.

Gosselin, Kim. ABCs of Asthma: An Asthma Alphabet Book for Kids of All Ages. Valley Park, MO: JayJo Books, 1998.
Summary: This is a useful educational tool for young children with asthma. Using the alphabet book format, the book reviews the anatomy, physiology and treatment of asthma.

Gosselin, Kim. SPORTSercise!. Valley Park, MO: JayJo Books, 1997.
Summary: About exercise-induced asthma.

Gosselin, Kim. ZooAllergy: A Fun Story About Allergy and Asthma Triggers. Valley Park, MO: JayJo Books, 1996.
Summary: Justin visits the allergist and has skin tests done. As a treat after the appointment, Justin's mom takes him and friend Ashley to the zoo. There they play a treasure hunt game, trying to locate all of the triggers for their allergies and asthma.

London, Jonathan. Lion Who Had Asthma. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 1997.
Summary: Sean's nebulizer mask and his imagination aid in his recovery following an asthma attack. Includes information on childhood asthma and how to control its symptoms.

Ostrow, William and Vivian Ostrow, Abby Levine (Editor). All About Asthma. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 1991.
Summary: The young narrator describes life as an asthmatic, explaining causes and symptoms of asthma, and discussing ways to control the disorder to lead a normal life.

Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) & Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

Andras Caffrey, Jaye. First Star I See. Fairport, NY: Verbal Images Press, 1997.
Summary: Paige is a young girl with ADD who is trying to win a school writing contest.

Carpenter, Phyllis and Marti Ford. Sparky's Excellent Misadventures: My ADD Journal by me (Sparky). Washington, DC: Magination Press, 2000.
Summary: This is the imaginary journal of Sparky, a young boy with ADD. Sparky tells funny and not so funny stories about his life at school, at home, and with friends.

Gantos, Jack. Joey Pigza series including: Joey Pigsa Swallowed the Key. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998.
Summary: To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription medications wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.

Gehret, Jeanne, M.A. Eagle Eyes: A Child's View of Attention Deficit Disorder. Fairport, NY: Verbal Images Press, 1991.
Summary: Ben, a boy with attention deficit disorder, describes the frustrations and feelings associated with his initially unidentified syndrome.

Gehret, Jeanne, M.A. I'm Somebody Too!. Fairport, NY: Verbal Images Press, 1992.
Summary: Emily, 12, has a younger brother who is hyperactive and a slow learner. Her worry about him affects her schoolwork and her peer relationships.

Gordon, Michael. My brother's a world class pain: A sibling's guide to ADHD-hyperactivity. DeWitt, NY: GSI. 1992.
Summary: The big sister in this book is a great story teller! She explains in kids´ language how her brother's ADHD affects her and how siblings of children with ADHD can often bear the brunt of family and home problems.

Janover, Caroline. Zipper, The Kid with ADHD. Bethesda, MD: Woodbine House, Inc., 1997.
Summary: Zachary (nicknamed Zipper), a fifth-grader who has attention- deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) has trouble concentrating and controlling himself until a retired jazz musician recognizes his talent, believes in him, and gives him the motivation to start trying to do better.

Nadeau, Kathleen G. and Ellen B. Dixon. Learning to Slow Down and Pay Attention: A Book for Kids about Add. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 1997.
Summary: A great book for a child learning about their ADHD.

Penn, Audrey. A.D.D. not BAD. Washington, DC: Child and Family Press, Child Welfare League of America, Inc., 2003.
Summary: With the help of their teacher, Mr. Jugardor, Jimmy Jumpingbean's classmates are able to put themselves into Jimmy's shoes-both literally and figuratively to learn what it life's like for a child with Attention Deficit Disorder.

Rotner, Shelley and Sheila Kelley. The A.D.D. Book for Kids. Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press, 2000.
Summary: In their own words, children explain what it's like dealing with attention-deficit disorder. Bright, upbeat photographs personalize their explanations.

Shapiro, Lawrence E. Sometimes I Drive My Mom Crazy, but I Know She's Crazy About Me: A Self-esteem Book for ADHD children. Secaucus, NJ: Childswork/ Childsplay, 1993.
Summary: An amusing story of a boy who has developed a sense of self-worth by learning to deal with his problems through the help of the adults who care for and about him.

Smith, Mark. Pay Attention, Slosh!. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 1997.
Summary: Book about a boy who can't figure out why he can't pay attention or sit still.

Autism & Asperger Syndrome

Baldwin, Carol. Autism. Part of the series *Health Matters*. Chicago, IL: Heinemann Library, 2003.
Summary: Inviting, colorful books offer students clear and readable introductions to conditions that affect them or their classmates. Chapters address causes, diagnoses, treatments, ways to help, and what to expect. This book focuses on Autism including an inspiring success story about artist Richard Wawro. Other books depict Olympic gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersee (Asthma), and the Reverend Jesse Jackson (Sickle Cell).

Branon, Bill. Timesong. Las Vegas, NV: Huntington Press, 1998.
Summary: Timesong is the inspirational story of a three- legged coyote named j.b. Who befriends an autistic boy named Tom. Following the loss of his father,Tom retreats into a shell of isolation. j.b. counters Tom's despair with a simple and uplifting explanation of immortality.

Choldenko, Gennifer. Al Capone Does My Shirts. Putnam Pub Group, 2004.
Summary: Twelve-year-old Moose moves to Alcatraz in 1935 so his father can work as a prison guard and his younger, autistic sister, Natalie, can attend a special school in San Francisco. With its unique setting and well-developed characters, this warm, engaging coming-of-age story has plenty of appeal, and Choldenko offers some fascinating historical background on Alcatraz Island in an afterword.

Day, Alexandra. The Flight of a Dove. New York, NY: Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2004.
Summary: The head teacher of a school for children with developmental disabilities believes animals can help the children. When a young autistic girl arrives, she's introduced to the school's many pets. Then a special bird captures the girl's attention.

Ely, Lesley. Looking after Louis. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Co, 2004.
Summary: Written by a clinical psychologist, this (fictional) view of an autistic child finding his place in a mainstream classroom.

Edwards, Becky. My Brother Sammy. Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Pr Trade, 1999.
Summary: A boy describes some of the many feelings he has about his brother Sammy, who is autistic.

Hoopmann, Kathy. Blue Bottle Mystery: An Asperger Adventure. Philadelphia, PA: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2001.
Summary: Ben and his friend, Andy, discover a mystery after finding a blue bottle. As they work out the mystery, Ben is diagnosed with Asperger syndrome. His diagnosis makes it easier for him, his father, and his teacher to understand why Ben sometimes has problems at home and at school.

Landalf, Helen. Secret night world of Cats. Lyme, NH: Smith & Kraus, 1998.
Summary: The result of a collaboration between author Helen Landalf and her brother, autistic savant artist Mark Rimland. The story of Amanda entering into a "secret world" one night in search of her missing "Tabby" will entertain all readers. The text seems to have followed the creation of the artwork rather than vice versa, as it seeks to weave together the adventures of these felines of different colors and sizes.

Lears, Laurie. Ian's Walk. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Company, 1998.
Summary: Julie tells about an outing to the park with her older sister and younger brother, who is autistic. As they walk through town, she describes the things that Ian does and the sensations he experiences that are different from what most people do and feel.

Lennard-Brown, Sarah. Autism. Austin, TX: Raintree Publishers, 2004.
Summary: Lennard-Brown explains this complex disorder that causes people to "dance to a different beat" while making relationships and communication very difficult.

Messner, Abby W. Captain Tommy. Arlington, TX: Future Horizons, 1999.
Summary: Tommy learns how to befriend a peer who has Autism.

Peralta, Sarah. All About My Brother. Shawnee Mission, Kansas: Autism Asperger Publishing Co., 2002.

Summary: Eight-year-old Sarah Peralta demystifies autism by giving us insights into the world of her younger brother, who is nonverbal. Through her simple depictions of Evan's everyday behavior, Sarah encourages others to approach autism without fear or pity.

Rodowski, Colby. Clay. New York, NY: Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2001.
Summary: Eleven-year-old narrator Elsie gradually makes clear that she and her autistic younger brother, Tommy, have been stolen away from their father by their emotionally unstable mother.

Rosenberg, Sarah Marsha. Everything You Need to Know when a Brother or Sister Is Autistic. New York, NY: Rosen Publishing Group, Inc., 2000.
Summary: Discusses what autism it, how it is diagnosed and treated, and ways that siblings of people with autism can find support.

Simmons, K.L. Little Rainman. Arlington, TX: Future Horizons, 1996.
Summary: Book is written from the perspective, Jonathon, of a young boy with Autism.

Sprecher, John. Jeffrey and the Despondent Dragon. Muskego, WI: Special Kids, 1997.
Summary: Originally a bedtime story for his son with autism, author wrote this book with lessons of life and love, regardless of our strengths and challenges.

Turner, Bonnie. The Haunted Igloo. Bloomington, IN: Author House, 2002.
Summary: A young Canadian boy struggles to adapt to his new and often difficult life in the Arctic.

Wilson, Ryan. The Legendary Blobshocker. Arlington, TX: Future Horizons. 1999.
Summary: Picture book written and illustrated by a 9-year-old boy with pervasive developmental disorder- not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS). The author wrote this book using the literacy program *Image-Making Within the Writing Process*, an art-and-literature-based approach to writing in which children construct paper collages in order to generate story ideas. In these pages, the author has created an imaginative story based on a sequence of his vibrant collage images. The story is about a Blobshocker named Henry, who travels from outer space to Earth in order to find a more comfortable place to live.

Blindness & Visual Impairments

Adler, David A. A Picture Book of Louis Braille. New York: NY: Holiday House, 1997.
Summary: Because of his own blindness, a young Frenchman created an alphabet used by the blind to read and write. Includes actual raised dot letters and numbers.

Beyer, Mark. Ray Charles. New York, NY: Rosen Publishing Group, Incorporated, 2003.
Summary: Traces the personal life and musical career of the blind singer, musician, and composer, Ray Charles.

Carter, Alden R. Seeing Things My Way. Morton Grove, IL: Whitman, 1998.
Summary: A visually impaired second-grader describes how she and her classmates live normal lives with various vision problems.

Davis, Patricia Anne. Brian's Bird**.** Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Co, 2000.
Summary: Brian, who is blind, enjoys taking care of the parakeet he receives on his eighth birthday. When his older brother lets the bird escape accidentally, then helps Brian get it back, both boys learn more about each other.

Garfield, James B. Follow My Leader. New York, NY: Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers, 1994.

Summary: After Jimmy is blinded in an accident with a firecracker, he has to relearn all the things he used to know. With the help of a determined therapist, he learns to read Braille and to use a cane. Then he's given the chance to have a guide dog. Learning to work with Leader is not easy, but Jimmy tries harder than he ever has before.

Hermann, Spring. Seeing Lessons. New York: NY: Henry Holt & Company, Incorporated, 1998.
Summary: When ten-year-old Abby Carter attends the newly established school for the blind in Boston in 1832, she proves that blind people can learn and be independent.

MacLachlan, Patricia. Through Grandpa's Eyes. New York, NY: Harper and Row, 1983.
Summary: A young boy learns a different way of "seeing" the world from his blind grandfather.

Meachen Rau, Dana. Secret Code. New York: NY: Scholastic Library Publishing, 1998.
Summary: Oscar, who is blind, teaches Lucy how to read his Braille book.

Rodriguez, Bobbie. Sarah's Sleepover. Viking, 2000.
Summary: A storm knocks out the lights, and Sarah, blind since birth, takes charge to help her frightened cousins who are spending the night.

Schaefer, Lola M. and Gail Saunders-Smith. Some People Are Blind. Mankato, MN: Capstone Press, 2000.
Summary: Simple text and photographs describe children who are blind, their challenges and adaptations, and their similarities with others.

Schulman, Arlene. T.J.'s Story: A book About a Boy Who is Blind. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 1997
Summary: Valerie is a child who is visually impaired. She is not totally blind, but even with glasses, she does not see as other children do.

Brain Injury

Gilberts Kachur, Wanda. My Friend Ben. Minnetonka, MN: Peytral Publications, 1997.
Summary: Narrated through the eyes of a classmate, this story tells of Ben, a boy with traumatic brain injury who is included in a general education, third-grade class.

Maryland Head Injury Foundation Staff. Why Did It Happen on a School Day?: My Family's Experience with Brain Injury. Brain Injury Association, Incorporated, 1995.
Summary: This book is written from the perspective of a young boy whose father has sustained a brain injury. It is designed to be used as a tool for helping children to understand what is happening to a parent with a brain injury and the subsequent recovery period. It is written in simple language and supplemented with illustrations.

Rhema, Dan. The Day the Animals Lost Their True Color. Brain Injury Association of Kentucky, 2001.
Summary: Written by a brain injury survivor, a children's book that helps children learn to embrace life anew after self-image and the way others see them are fundamentally altered due to brain injury.

Snyder, Heather. Elvin, The Elephant Who Forgets. Wake Forest, NC: Lash & Associates Publishing, Incorporated, 1998.
Summary: A delightful book about a little elephant named Elvin, who has a tree branch fall on his head. A visit to the neuropsychologist helps him understand that he's not a bad little elephant… he has a brain injury.

Cancer

Hamilton, Virginia. Bluish. New York, NY: Blue Sky Press, 1999.
Summary: Ten-year-old Dreenie feels both intrigued and frightened when she thinks about the girl nicknamed Bluish, whose leukemia is making her pale and causing her to use a wheelchair.

Krisher, Trudy. Kathy's Hats: A Story of Hope. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Company, 1989.
Summary: Kathy's love of hats comes in handy when the chemotherapy treatments she receives for her cancer make her hair fall out.

Schulz, Charles M. Why, Charlie Brown, Why?: A Story about What Happens when a Friend Is Very Ill. New York, NY: Random House Publishing Group, 2002.
Summary: The members of the Peanuts gang have varying reactions when they learn that their friend Janice has leukemia and they follow her treatment and ultimate recovery

Cerebral Palsy

Bergman, Thomas. Going Places: Children Living With Cerebral Palsy (Don't Turn Away). Milwaukee, WI: Gareth Stevens Audio, 1991.
Summary: Mathias, six-years-old, was born with cerebral palsy and subsequently diagnosed as almost totally deaf. But he is a happy child, spinning through the garden in his electric wheelchair, miming guitar on a tennis racket, and kneading dough. Readers follow him through examinations, various therapies, riding horseback, ice-skating, etc.

Betancourt, Jean. He's My Pony (Pony Pals). New York, NY: Scholastic, Inc., 2001.
Summary: Anna feels jealous when her neighbor's niece, Christine, arrives for a visit. Christine loves ponies, but she hasn't had a chance to ride because of her cerebral palsy. The Pony pals convince her to try lessons, but she is terrified of every horse, except Anna's Acorn. Soon Christine and Acorn develop a special bond, and Anna feels threatened.

Bryant, Bonnie. Riding Class. New York, NY: Skylark Books, 1996.
Summary: Emily has cerebral palsy, but she and her specially trained horse get around just fine. The Saddle Club girls make friends with Emily and even take her on her first trail ride.

Buehrens, Adam and Carol Buehrens. Adam and the Magic Marble. Duarte, CA: Hope Press, 1991.
Summary: Adam, Chris and Matt are often harassed by bullies until they discover a magic marble.

Fassler, Joan. Howie Helps Himself. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Co., 1975.
Summary: Howie has cerebral palsy. He gets around in a wheelchair, or rather, other people get him around in his wheelchair. More than anything, Howie wants to move that chair himself.

Holcomb, Nan. Andy Finds a Turtle. Hollidaysburg, PA: Jason and Nordic Publishers, 1988.
Summary: Andy enjoys physical therapy most of the time, but somethimes he doesn't. One day he's told he acts like a turtle with his legs and arms drawn in tight - but Andy doesn't know what a turtle is, so he goes in search of one. In this search he protects his baby sister from a strange invader and discovers something important about himself.

Holcomb, Nan. Andy Opens Wide. Hollidaysburg, PA: Jason and Nordic Publishers, 1990.
Summary: 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.

Holcomb, Nan. A Smile from Andy. Hollidaysburg, PA: Jason and Nordic Publishers, 1989.

Summary: 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.

Lenett Whinston, Joan. I'm Joshua and "Yes I Can". New York, NY: Vantage Press, Inc., 1989.
Summary: Joshua, a young boy with cerebral palsy, describes his fears and insecurities about his disability on his first day in first grade.

Lennard-Brown, Sarah. Autism. Austin, TX: Raintree Publishers, 2004.
Summary: Lennard-Brown explains this complex disorder that causes people to "dance to a different beat" while making relationships and communication very difficult.

Mikaelsen, Ben. Petey. New York, NY, Hyperion, 1998.
Summary: Petey is a boy that has Cerebral Palsy. His parents sold everything they had to pay for the hospital bills. People thought that he was retarded so they sent him to Warm Springs Insane Asylum. His best friend Calvin, Owen, Cassie, Joe, and Trevor were the only ones who really understood him.

Moran, George. Imagine Me on a Sit-Ski!: A Concept Book. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 1994.
Summary: A child who has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair describes learning to ski with adaptive equipment.

Trueman, Terry. Cruise Control. New York, NY: Harper Collins Children's Books, 2004.
Summary: A talented basketball player struggles to deal with the helplessness and anger that come with having a brother rendered completely dysfunctional by severe cerebral palsy and a father who deserted the family.

Turner, Bonnie. The Haunted Igloo. Bloomington, IN: Author House, 2002.
Summary: A young Canadian boy struggles to adapt to his new and often difficult life in the Arctic.

Wanous, Suzanne. Sara's Secret. Carolrhoda Books, 1995.
Summary: Justin is five with cerebral palsy and mental retardation. He "can't walk or talk or feed himself, or even sit up," but still, he makes his sister Sara happy. Sara is not happy, however, when her teacher plans a unit on disabilities. Sara doesn't want her friends to know about her brother.

Yates, Sarah. Here's What I Mean To Say.... Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada: Gemma B. Publishing Inc., 1997.
Summary: Ann (age 9) who has cerebral palsy, takes us through her struggles with everyday activities.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mead, Alice. Madame Squidley and Beanie. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004.
Summary: Ten-year-old Beanie struggles with the start of a new school year, being excluded from the fifth grade in-crowd, and the extra burdens her mother's Chronic Fatigue Syndrome places on her.

Communication Disorders - Articulation Impairments

Berry, Steve. The Boy Who Wouldn't Speak. Toronto, ON: Annick Press, Limited, 1992.
Summary: Owen grows to be five years old without speaking. "Never mind," says Mom, "he'll talk when he's ready." When Owen befriends two kindly giants down the block, he finally must speak to defend them against the biased neighbors.

Lears, Laurie. Ben Has Something to Say. Morton Grove, IL: Whitman, 2000.
Summary: Ben, who suffers from stuttering, must speak up in order to save the guard dog he befriended at the junkyard.
Neuringer Levy, Myrna. The Summer Kid. Toronto, Canada: Second Story Press, 1991.
Summary: Karen, a 10-year-old girl who stays at a summer cottage with her grandmother encounters Tommy, a 9-year-old boy with a severe language disorder.

Patterson, Nancy Ruth. Shiniest Rock of All. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1994.
Summary: Fourth grader Robert Morris Reynolds, who cannot say his name properly because he has trouble pronouncing his Rs, works hard with a speech therapist to overcome his problem.

Shipon-Blum, Elisa, Dr. Understanding Katie. Philadelphia, PA: Selective Mutism Anxiety Research and Treatment Center, 2001.
Summary: Story of a little girl with Selective Mutism, how she feels, how she acts and how her parents and teachers work to help her.

Deafness & Hearing Impairments

Abbott, Deborah, Henry Kisor, and Kathy Tucker. One TV Blasting and a Pig Outdoors. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 1994.
Summary: Conan describes life with his father who lost his hearing at the age of three.

Addabbom, Carole. Dina the Deaf Dinosaur. Stamford, CT: Hannacroix Creek, 1997.
Summary: Because her parents would not learn sign language, Dina the deaf dinosaur runs away from home and becomes friends with an owl, a mole, and a chipmunk.

Andrews, Jean F. The Flying Fingers Club. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press, 1988.
Summary: Donald is a third grader who is bitter about repeating it when he meets Matt, who comes to class with an interpreter because he is deaf; they become fast friends.

Gilmore, Rachna. Screaming Kind of Day. Markham, ON: Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 1999.
Summary: Scully only listens to her teasing brother and scolding mother when she wants to; then she turns on her hearing aids. One rainy day when she wants to play outside, her mother sends her to her room instead. Sneaking out the back door causes Scully more problems before she and her mother reconcile. Canadian Governor's Award.

Greene, Carol. Ludwig van Beethoven: Musical Pioneer. New York, NY: Children's Press, 1989.
Summary: The life of Beethoven is chronicled from his despair over his worsening deafness to his deepening commitment to his music.

Harwell Celenza, Anna. The Heroic Symphony. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge Publishing, Inc., 2004.
Summary: After learning that he is going deaf, Beethoven is determined to write a great symphony using the heroic deeds of Napoleon as his initial inspiration.

Haughton, Emma. Living with Deafness. Austin, TX: Raintree, 2000.
Summary: Explains the condition of deafness, its possible causes, and how it affects the everyday lives of those who are dealing with it.

Heelan, Jamee. Can You Hear a Rainbow. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree Publishers, 2002.
Summary: Chris, who's about 10 years old, explains how he uses sign language, hearing aids, lip reading, and other visual clues to compensate for his condition.

Lakin, Pat. Dad and Me in the Morning. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Company, 1994.
Summary: The boy's deafness is unobtrusively woven into this story about a father and child sharing a moment in time.

Rankin, Laura. The Handmade Alphabet. Dial, 1991.
Summary: Wonderfully diverse hands demonstrate each letter of the manual alphabet used in American Sign Language, while the colored pencil drawings suggest objects from A to Z.

Roth Lowell, Gloria and Karen Stormer Brooks. Elana's Ears, or How I Became the Best Big Sister in the World. Washington, DC: Magination Press, 1999.
Summary: Lacey the family dog is jealous of the new baby that her human parents brought home, until she discovers that the baby cannot hear.

Woolley, Maggie. Being Deaf. Mankato, MN: Smart Apple Media, 2000.
Summary: Examines the nature, causes, history, treatment, means of communication, challenges, and social aspects of deafness.

Developmental Disability

Hasler, Evaline. Martin is Our Friend. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1981.
Summary: A young mentally handicapped boy encounters many difficulties in his relationship with the other children until he establishes a special bond with the horse he learns to ride.

Tashilian, Janet. Tru Confessions. New York: NY: Henry Holt and Co., 1997.
Summary: In this fast and funny first-person novel, 12-year-old Tru tries to figure out how to achieve her goals to have her own TV show and to help her twin brother, Eddie, who has a developmental disability after not getting enough oxygen at birth.

Thompson, Mary. My Brother, Matthew. Bethesda, MD: Woodbine House, 1992.
Summary: Though David knows frustration and resentment at times, he feels he understands his disabled little brother even better than his parents; and together the two boys experience a great deal of joy.

Useman, Sharon and Ernie Useman. Tibby Tried It. Washington, DC: Magination Press, 1998.
Summary: Tibby is a young bird with a crooked wing who will never be able to fly. Some of the other birds make fun of Tibby, but undaunted he travels cheerfully around the forest, making friends with Rupert Rabbit, Sarafina Squirrel, and others who make their home there. They teach him how to climb, slither, hop, and more -- and Tibby tries it all! In the end, Tibby uses his newfound abilities to save the day and become a hero.

Diabetes

Bryan, Jenny. Living with Diabetes. Austin, TX: Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 2000.
Summary: Three young people and one adult live normal, active lives despite their diabetes. Other subjects in the Living With series: blindness, cerebral palsy, deafness, epilepsy and Down syndrome.

Gosselin, Kim and Barbara Mitchell (Editor). Taking Diabetes to School. Valley Park, MO: JayJo Books, LLC, 1997.
Summary: This book explains in non-technical information what diabetes is and how to manage it in the classroom.

White Pirner, Connie. Even Little Kids Get Diabetes. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 1991.

Summary: A young girl who has had diabetes since she was two years old describes her adjustments to the disease.

Down Syndrome

Bowman-Krum, Mary. Everything You Need to Know About Downs Syndrome. New York, NY: Rosen Publishing Group, Inc., 2000.
Summary: Provides basic information for those who suspect a learning disability or simply want to know more about the subject.

Carter, A.R.. Dustin's Big School Day. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 1999.
Summary: Second-grader Dustin, who has Down syndrome, anticipates the arrival of two very special guests at his school one day.

Dodds, Bill. My Sister Annie. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press Inc., 1989.
Summary: Charlie is an 11-year-old boy who attempts to cope with growing up in the shadow of an older sister with Down syndrome.

Fox, Paula. Radiance Descending. New York, NY: DK Publishing, Inc., 1997.
Summary: When he sees all the attention which his parents and people in the neighborhood give to Jacob, eleven-year-old Paul struggles with his feelings toward this younger brother who has Down syndrome.

Rheingrover, Jean. Veronica's First Year. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Company, 1996.
Summary: Nine-year-old Nathan helps welcome his baby sister, who has Down's syndrome, into the family and eagerly anticipates the day when she will be able to ride his tricycle.

Shriver, Maria. What's Wrong with Timmy?. New York, NY: Time Warner Trade Publishing, 2001.
Summary: When Kate meets Timmy, a boy who is mentally disabled, she is full of questions. After talking with her mother, Kate realizes that she and Timmy have a lot in common and they become fast friends.

Testa, Maria. Thumbs Up, Rico!. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Co., 1990.
Summary: 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.

Dwarfism/ Short Stature

Riggs, Stephanie. Never Sell Yourself Short. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Company, 2001.
Summary: This photographic biography about a child who has dwarfism answers questions children might have about a little person. It also encourages the reader to see Josh as a person with gifts, interests, goals, and aspirations.

Epilepsy

Cragin Herzig, Alison and Jane Lawrence Mali. A Season of Secrets. Boston, MA: Little, Brown.
Summary: Benji is a 6-year-old who has been fainting at school and Brooke and Jason, his teenage sister and brother, wonder all summer long what is wrong with him.

Lears, Laurie. Becky the Brave. Morton Grove, IL: Whitman, 2002.
Summary: Becky is Sarah's big sister. In many ways they are alike, but as Sarah says, "Becky is brave…and I am not." Becky walks Sarah to her classroom each day. She is brave about going to a new school, about standing up to a big dog, and even about having epilepsy.

General Disabilities

Bertrand, Diane Gonzales. My Pal, Victor/Mi Amigo, Victor. Green Bay, WI: Raven Tree Press, 2004.
Summary: Dominic relates all the wonderful things he does with his best friend Victor; telling scary stories at sleepovers, swimming at the pool, riding rollercoasters. The surprise ending is learning that Victor uses a wheel chair. Bilingual text in English and Spanish.

Bunnett, Rochelle. Friends at School. Long Island City, NY: Star Bright Books, 1996.
Summary: We meet a classroom of children and follow them through their school day. Beautiful photographs show children with and without disabilities actively engaged in their school activities.

Calmenson, Stephanie. Rosie: A Visiting Dog's Story. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1994.
Summary: Rosie, a Tibetan terrier who is trained to work as a visiting dog, provides therapeutic comfort and entertainment to children and adults who are hospitalized or in nursing homes.

Carlisle, Kim. Special Raccoon: Helping a Child Learn About Handicaps and Love. Far Hills, NJ: New Horizon, 1994.
Summary: This is a story that will help the reader gain an understanding of what it means to be physically and mentally challenged.

Carlson, Nancy. Arnie and the New Kid . New York, NY: Scholastic Inc., 1990.
Summary: The new boy Philip, "different from most kids" because he uses a wheelchair and is generally ignored by his classmates because they don't know how to include him in their games. But when Arnie, his main tormentor, falls down the stairs while teasing Philip, the usually able-bodied boy discovers firsthand how hard and slow it is to navigate on crutches.

Craymer, Sally. There's a Blue Square on My Brother's School Bus. Studley, VA: The Wishing Room, Inc., 1992.
Summary: 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.

DePompei, Roberta and Bob Cluett. All About Me!. Wake Forest, NC: Lash and Associates Publishing/Training, 1998.
Summary: This interactive booklet helps elementary school age children understand any disability by using checklists and answering questions.

Hodgson Burnett,Frances. Secret Garden. New York, NY: Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers, 1911.
Summary: Ten-year-old Mary comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors where she discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.

Hoffman, Eric. No Fair to Tigers : No Es Justo Para Los Tigres. St. Paul, MN: Redleaf Press, 1999.
Summary: When Mandy finally finds Old Tiger, his ear is falling off, and he has no tail. Mandy wants put him back together. When Mandy goes to the store, the steps out front make it impossible for her to get her wheelchair inside. No Fair to Tigers is a story about how Mandy and Old Tiger ask for fair treatment and solutions to the problems they encounter.

Holcomb, Nan. Fair and Square. Hollidaysburg, PA: Jason & Nordic Publishers, 1992.
Summary: Tired of others letting him win at games, Kevin, a physically handicapped boy, learns how to win fair and square when he competes against a computer.

Hugo, Victor. The Hunchback of Notre Dame. New York, NY: Penguin Books Ltd.
Summary: Set in fifteenth-century Paris, Hugo's powerful novel evokes medieval life as it tells of the doomed love of Quasimodo, the grotesque bell-ringer at the Cathedral of Notre Dame, for Esmeralda, the beautiful gypsy.

Lasker, Joe. Nick Joins In. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 1991.
Summary: When Nick, confined to a wheelchair, enters a regular classroom for the first time as a result of U.S. Public Law 94-142, he and his new classmates must resolve their initial apprehensions about mainstreaming.

Maguire, Arlene and Sheila Bailey. Special People, Special Ways. Arlington, TX: Future Horizons, Incorporated, 2000.
Summary: Coupled with the colorful illustrations, this book conveys the message that although painful at times, being different can also be glorious.

Maguire, Arlene. We're All Special. Santa Monica, CA: Portunus, 1995.
Summary: Rhyming text points out the many ways in which people differ from one another and encourages individuality.

McNamee, Graham. Nothing Wrong with a Three-Legged Dog. New York, NY: Yearling, 2001.
Summary: Being shy and the only white kid in his fourth grade class, Keath is an easy target for bullies. His friendship with classmate Lynda and her three-legged dog, Leftovers, helps Keath cope with visiting his beloved, stroke-victim grandmother and standing up to his major tormentor in school.

Rogers, Fred. Lets Talk About It: Extraordinary Friends. New York, NY: Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers, 2000.
Summary: Discusses ways to get to know more about people who are different because of various handicaps.

Scrimger, Richard. Nose for Adventure. Plattsburgh, NY: Tundra, 2000.
Summary: Alan is to take his first airplane ride to meet his father in New York. A wacky adventure ensues including Frieda, his cranky seatmate, who uses a wheelchair and an alien, Norbert, who previously took up residence in his nose.

Seskin, Steve and Allen Shamblin. Don't Laugh At Me. Berkeley, CA: Ten Speed Press, 2002.
Summary: The text/lyrics focus on the ridicule suffered by a boy with glasses, a girl who wears braces and a wheelchair-bound child, among others, ultimately uniting the voices of the bullied in the verse "Don't laugh at me./ Don't call me names./ Don't get your pleasure from my pain./ In God's eyes we're all the same."

Smith, Sally. Different is Not Bad, Different is the World: A Book About Disabilities. Longmont, CO: Sopris West Publishers, 1994.
Summary: This illustrated book introduces children to physical and learning disabilities. The book also introduces famous historical figures who had disabilities and succeeded despite them. Helps children understand that differences are not bad and that they add to the richness of our world.

Swanson, Diane. The Doctor and You. Toronto, ON: Annick Press, Limited, 2001.
Summary: The Doctor and You is a book for any young child who will experience a trip to a doctor's office, hospital, or health clinic. The photographs familiarize children with many of the medical instruments and machines they are likely to encounter during their visit, allowing them to become more comfortable with doctors and hospitals.

Turk, Ruth. Doll on the Top Shelf. Los Altos, CA: Owl's House Press. 1999.
Summary: Placed on a dusty top shelf by the toy store owner, a doll who is not as new or pretty as the others still hopes that on Christmas Eve someone will come to take her home.

Twachtman-Cullen, Diane. Trevor Trevor. Higganum, CT: Starfish Press, 1997.
Summary: Trevor Trevor is a metaphor for children. Uses indirect teaching and implication to stimulate new ways of thinking. Trevor, is a child with impressive, though isolated skills. It is not Trevor's strengths that his classmates notice, but rather his differences. Change comes through the efforts of a caring and sensitive teacher.

Willis, Jeanne. Susan Laughs. New York: NY: Henry Holt & Company, Incorporated, 2000.
Summary: Told in rhyme, this story follows Susan through a series of familiar activities. She swims with her father, works hard in school, plays with her friends--and even rides a horse. Lively, thoughtfully drawn illustrations reveal a portrait of a busy, happy little girl with whom younger readers will identify. Not until the end of the story is it revealed that Susan uses a wheelchair.

Zonta, Pat and Clive Dobson. Jessica's X-Ray. Richmond Hill, ON: Firefly Books, Limited, 2002.
Summary: Featuring six real x-rays printed on mylar, Jessica's X-Ray is a unique and fun look inside our bodies and the world of x-rays written by a professional x-ray technologist who has worked extensively with children. In the book, kids follow Jessica, who has broken her arm, as she tours the hospital seeing x-ray rooms and looking at actual x-ray, CAT-scan, MRI and ultrasound images.

Learning Disabilities, Dyslexia, Reading Difficulties

Banks, Jacqueline Turner. Egg-drop Blues. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1995.
Summary: Twelve-year-old Judge Jenkins has a low science grade because of his dyslexia, so he convinces his twin brother Jury to work with him in a science competition in order to earn extra credit.

Betancourt, Jeanne. My Name Is Brain Brian. New York, NY: Scholastic Inc., 1993.
Summary: Brian, a sixth-grade boy is diagnosed as having dyslexia. His initial trepidation at being singled out for attention and diagnosis is gradually replaced by enthusiasm for learning new ways of learning.

Fisher, Gary L., Rhoda Cummings, and Jackie Urbanovic. The Survival Guide for Kids with LD. Minneapolis, MN: Free Spirit Publishing, Inc., 2002.
Summary: Discusses how children with "learning differences" can get along better in school, set goals, and plan for the future.

Gehret, Jeanne. Learning Disabilities and the Don't Give Up Kid. Fairport, NY: Verbal Images Press, 1990.
Summary: A dyslexic boy wants to grow up to be an inventor like Thomas Edison but is constantly frustrated by problems at school. He switches into a small special education class of children with auditory processing difficulties. The teacher gives him more personal attention, using an example from Edison's life to inspire him.

Griffith, Joe. How Dyslexic Benny Became a Star: A Story of Hope for Dyslexic Children and Their Parents. Dallas, TX: Yorktown Press, 1998.
Summary: Benny is a strong football player who struggles in school. When his academic problems start to affect his self-esteem and confidence, his coach suggests that Benny be evaluated for a

learning disability. With the assistance of the resource teacher, Benny's reading and academic skills improve along with his self-confidence.

Isdell, Wendy. A Zebra Named Al. Minneapolis, MN: Free Spirit Publishing, 1993.
Summary: Julie is an 8th grader who has trouble in math. Frustrated, she rests her head on her book... and is awakened by an Imaginary Number who suddenly appears in her room. When she follows the Number through a mysterious portal, she enters a strange land of mathematics, where she meets a zebra named Al.

Janover, Caroline. How Many Days Until Tomorrow?. Bethesda, MD: Woodbine House, 2000.
Summary: Josh is a 12-year-old who has dyslexia. When he spends a summer on an island with his grandparents, he develops his strengths and discovers talents he did not know he had.

Janover, Caroline. Josh: A Boy with Dyslexia. Burlington, VT: Waterfront Books, 1988.
Summary: Josh struggles to live down the stigma of his learning disability, dyslexia, and receive both respect and friendship from his peers. Includes information on the characteristics of dyslexia and a list of organizations that deal with learning disabilities.

Lasker, Joe. He's My Brother. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 1991.
Summary: A young boy describes the experiences of his slow learning younger brother at school and at home.

Levine, Mel. All Kinds of Minds: A Young Student's Book About Learning Abilities and Learrning Disorders. Cambridge, MA: Educators Publishing Service, Incorporated, 1992.
Summary: Written from the perspective of 5 elementary students, this book improves the self esteem of young readers with attention deficit disorder, dyslexia, language disorder, social or motor skills deficits.

Lewis, Marjorie. Wrongway Applebaum. New York, NY: Penguin Group (USA) Incorporated, 1984.
Summary: Stanley is in fifth grade when his awkwardness and inability to tell left from right conflict with his family's interest in baseball.

Polacco, Patricia. Thank You, Mr. Falker. New York, NY: Philomel, 1998.
Summary: "A children's book set in 1950's is the true, heart touching story of a child's struggle with dyslexia.

Schlieper, Anne. The Best Fight. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Company, 1995.
Summary: Jamie is an adolescent boy who has learning disabilities that impair his reading. Frustration at his low reading ability combines with alienation due to his placement in special classes. His mixed emotions toward his teachers, friends, and family are explored.

Shaywitz, Sally. Overcoming Dyslexia. New York: Knopf/Random House, 2003.
Summary: Written by a neuroscientist and pediatrician, this guide for dyslexics and their families aims to demystify the subject of reading difficulties. Drawing upon recent research, Shaywitz describes the mechanisms underlying dyslexia along with the range of effective treatments available for dyslexic people of all ages.

Stern, Judith and Ben-Ami, U. Many Ways to Learn: Young People's Guide to Learning Disabilities. Washington, DC: Magination Press, 1996.
Summary: A good book for kids and parents to read together, it provides a good way to think and talk about learning differences.

Mental Illness

Koplow, Lesley. Tanya and the Tobo Man: A Story for Children Entering Therapy. Washington, DC: Magination Press, 1991.
Summary: Tanya's continuing fear of the Tobo Man leads her mother to start her in therapy at a children's mental health center, where she discovers how to express her feelings and eventually loses her fear.

Williams, Mary L. Cool Cats, Calm Kids: Relaxation and Stress Management for Young People. San Luis Obispo, CA: Impact, 1996.
Summary: Today's children are stressed. They need learning tools that are fun, informative and memorable to help them cope. Cool Cats, Calm Kids is a practical yet humorous guide to stress management for children ages 7-12.

Mental Retardation

Carrick, Carol. Stay Away from Simon!. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1989.
Summary: Lucy and her younger brother examine their feelings about a mentally handicapped boy they both fear when he follows them home one snowy day.

Gifaldi, David. Ben, King of the River. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 2001.
Summary: Chad experiences a range of emotions when he goes camping with his parents and his five-year-old mentally disabled brother Ben who has many developmental problems.

Glenn, Sharlee. Keeping Up with Roo**.** New York, NY: Putnam's Sons, 2004.
Summary: Five-year-old Gracie has always had a special bond with her Aunt Roo, who is mentally disabled, but that relationship starts to change when Gracie begins school.

Mills, Claudia. At The Back of the Woods. New York, NY: Four Winds, 1982.
Summary: Davey is a young boy with mental retardation who is at a special care facility. His sister, Clarisse, and his parents come to visit him.

O'Connor, Barbara. Me and Rupert Goody. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999.
Summary: Jennalee's world is turned upside-down when a stranger names Rupert comes to town. Rupert has a mental disability, and Jennalee must adjust to sharing her friends and family with him.

Pulver, R., & Wolf, E. Way to go, Alex!. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 1999.
Summary: Carly learns a lot about Alex, her mentally disabled older brother, as he trains for and competes in the Special Olympics.

Walley, Susan. Best of Friends. Greenville, SC: Bob Jones University Press, 1990.
Summary: Fifth-grader Katie wants to be best friends with the new girl who seems to be good at everything, but that means leaving her friend Esther and the mentally handicapped neighbor boy behind.

Wanous, Suzanne. Sara's Secret. Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books, 1995.
Summary: Justin is five with cerebral palsy and mental retardation. He "can't walk or talk or feed himself, or even sit up," but still, he makes his sister Sara happy. Sara is not happy, however, when her teacher plans a unit on disabilities. Sara doesn't want her friends to know about her brother.

Mobility and Disability / Service Animals

Cowen-Fletcher, Jane. Mama Zooms. New York, NY: Scholastic, Inc., 1993.
Summary: A boy's wonderful mama takes him zooming everywhere with her, because her wheelchair is a zooming machine.

Harshman, Marc. The Storm. New York, NY: Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers, 1995.
Summary: Though confined to a wheelchair, Jonathan faces the terror of a tornado all by himself and saves the lives of the horses on the family farm.

Kent, Deborah. Animal Helpers for the Disabled. London, England: Franklin Watts, 2003.
Summary: The movement to train animals to assist people with disabilities began in early 1900s with dog guides for the blind. Over the years, interest in animal helpers, or service animals, grew, and animals learned how to help people with other types of disabilities including deafness and paralysis. Read about the history of animal helpers and learn how these animals are trained and how they help people with disabilities in their daily lives.

Little, Jim R.. Wheelchair Road Racing. Mankato, MN: Capstone Press, 1997.
Summary: Describes the history of the sport of wheelchair road racing, as well as the training, equipment, and rules involved.

McGinty, Alice B. Guide Dogs: Seeing for People Who Can't. New York, NY: Rosen Publishing Group, Inc. 2003.
Summary: Describes the raising and training of Freedom, a seeing eye dog, beginning with its selection as a candidate to be a guide dog up to its placement with an appropriate master.

Meyers, Cindy. Rolling Along with Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Bethesda, MD: Woodbine House, 1999.
Summary: In this updated version of a familiar folktale, baby bear gets around in a wheelchair and has a motorized bed which fascinate Goldilocks when she becomes friends with him after her surprise visit to the three bears' house.

Schaefer, Lola M. Some People Use Wheelchairs. Mankato, MN: Capstone Press, 2000.
Summary: Simple text and illustrations discuss the challenges of being in a wheelchair, why some children cannot walk, and how those who use a wheelchair function at school and at play.

Muscular Dystrophy

Bergman, Thomas. Precious Time: Children Living with Muscular Dystrophy. Milwaukee, WI: Gareth Stevens Audio, 1996.
Summary: Describes the life, including medical attention and various daily activities, of a nine-year-old boy with Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

Osofsky, Audrey. My Buddy. New York: NY: Henry Holt & Company, Incorporated, 1994.
Summary: A young boy with muscular dystrophy tells how he is teamed up with a dog trained to do things for him that he can't do for himself.

Paralysis

Abraham, Philip. Christopher Reeve. New York, NY: Scholastic Library Publishing, 2002.
Summary: An easy-to-read biography of the actor Christopher Reeve, noting the accident that left him paralyzed.

Mitchell, Marianne M. Finding Zola. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2003.

Summary: While trying to discover what happened to her elderly neighbor who has mysteriously disappeared, thirteen-year-old Crystal confronts her feelings of guilt related to the car accident that killed her father and left her confined to a wheelchair.

Eareckson Tada, Joni and Steve Jensen. Mission Adventure. Crossway Books, 2001.
Summary: Although being in a wheelchair will make the trip difficult, Darcy feels called to go with members of her church on a mission to Guatemala, where she and her sister help a deaf orphan.

Polio

Krull, Kathleen. Wilma Unlimited. San Diego, CA: Harcourt, 1996.
Summary: Wilma Rudolph overcame polio to win three Gold Medals in track at the 1960 Olympics.

Winter, Jonah. Frida. New York, NY: Arthur A. Levine, 2002.
Summary: In her youth, Mexican painter Frida Kahlo overcame polio and a debilitating accident to create unique and renowned art.

Psychology

Freymann, Saxton and Joost Elffers. How Are You Peeling? Foods with Moods. New York, NY: Scholastic Inc., 1999.
Summary: Brief text and photographs of carvings made from vegetables introduce the world of emotions by presenting leading questions such as "Are you feeling angry?"

Spina Bifida

Herrera, Juan Felipe. Featherless/Desplumado: Story/Cuento. San Francisco, CA: Children's Book Press, 2004.
Summary: Spina bifida keeps Tomasito in a wheelchair, where he often feels like his featherless pet bird, Desplumado, who cannot fly. But with a friend's encouragement, Tomasito finds freedom on the soccer field. Bilingual text in English and Spanish.

Rabe, Bernice. Margaret's Moves. New York, NY: Dutton, 1987.
Summary: Margaret is 9-years-old and has problems with the fact she is in a wheelchair and blames it for slowing her down.

Tourette Syndrome

Buehrens, Adam and Carol Buehrens. Adam and the Magic Marble. Duarte, CA: Hope Press, 1991.
Summary: Adam, Chris and Matt are often harassed by bullies until they discover a magic marble.

Buehrens, Adam. Hi, I'm Adam. A Child's Story of Tourette Syndrome. Duarte, CA: Hope Press, 1991.
Summary: Adam, a 10-year-old boy diagnosed with Tourette syndrome, wrote this book to help children with Tourette syndrome understand that they are not alone and that other children are experiencing similar difficulties.

Death and Dying

Alexander, Sue. Nadia the Willful. New York: Pantheon, 1983.
Summary: Nadia refuses to lose the memories of her beloved older brother after his disappearance in the desert. She helps her village embrace his death and treasure their memories of him.

Aliki. The Two of Them. West Caldwell, NJ: Greenwillow Books, 1979.
Summary: This book describes the love between a child and her grandfather. Throughout her childhood years, grandfather helped and cherished her. As he becomes increasingly bedridden, the child cares for him. After his death, she reflects on the life/death cycle while sitting in their orchard.

Alley, Robert W. Sad Isn't Bad: A Good-Grief Guidebook for Kids Dealing with Loss. St. Meinrad, IN: Abbey Press, 1998.
Summary: Well-crafted summary of the grief process, this book discusses the various aspects of grief and the ways people cope with the death of loved ones. In assuming the concept of life after death, this book is sensitive to differences in religious belief and practices and provides opportunities for the young reader to think, to ask questions, and to grow.

Anderson, Leone C. It's O.K. to Cry. Elgin, IL: The Child's World, 1979.
Summary: Two young brothers deal with their grief at the death of their favorite uncle who is killed in a motorcycle accident. The book is accompanied by a study guide.

Bunting, Eve. The Happy Funeral. New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1982.
Summary: Laura, a Chinese-American girl, assists her family in preparation for grandfather's funeral. Blends funeral practices from both Asian and Christian cultures. Includes many customs which would by appropriate for children of any culture.

Buscaglia, Leo. The Falls of Freddie the Leaf. Thorofare, NJ: Charles B. Slack, 1982.
Summary: The allegorical tale relates the phenomena of life and death through the experiences of Freddie the leaf and his wise friend Daniel.

Carrick, Carol. The Accident. New York: Seabury Press, 1976.
Summary: Young Christopher has indirectly caused the death of his dog. His parents help him understand his guilt and anger and gradually ease him through the grief process.

Coutant, Helen. First Snow. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1974.
Summary: Lien, a 6-year-old Vietnamese-American child, learns about death and life from her dying grandmother. Grandmother tells her to search for the meaning of death by going out to the garden and holding her hands to Heaven. In doing so, a delicate snowflake falls to the ground and waters a small green shoot, illustrating the eternal life-death cycle.

Kübler-Ross, Elisabeth. Remember the Secret. Berkeley, CA: Ten Speed Press, 1988.
Summary: A wonderfully gentle way for children to learn about the value of life as well as the reality of death and dying.

Miles, Miska. Annie and the Old One. Boston, MA: Little Brown & Co., 1971.
Summary: Story of a little Navajo girl who is given a weaving stick by her grandmother. Annie's grandmother is old and predicts that she will die. Grandmother helps Annie resume the weaving by explaining the cycle of life and death.

Mills, Joyce C. Gentle Willow: A Story for Children About Dying. Washington, DC: Magination Press, 1994.
Summary: Amanda the squirrel is upset that she is going to lose her friend Gentle Willow, but the tree wizards give advice that help both her and Gentle Willow accept the change that comes with death.

Peavy, Linda S. Allison's Grandfather. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981.
Summary: Erica's first encounter with death is through the death of her friend's grandfather. A peaceful death bed scene is described. A gentle philosophy of "light and love" that transcends death.

Thacher Hurd, Edith. The Black Dog Who Went into the Woods. New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1980.
Summary: Seven-year-old Benjamin announces that "Black Dog has gone away to die." That night each family member dreams of Black Dog. Conveys the deep sense of loss an entire family can feel after the death of a family pet.

Viorst, Judith. The Tenth Good Thing About Barney. New York: Antheneum, 1971.
Summary: A boy is heartbroken by the death of his cat, Barney. His parents help him plan a funeral and encourage him to remember "ten good things about Barney."

MIDDLE SCHOOL AGES 11 TO 14

(Can be used in High School also)

Disability Listing:
Amputee and Congenital Limb Malformation

Barasch, Lynne. Knockin' on Wood: Starring Peg Leg Bates. New York, NY: Lee and Low Books, 2004.

Summary: Biography of world famous African American tap dancer who had only one leg. Tells about Clayton Bates's unstoppable love of dancing, his accident in 1919 at age twelve, and the wooden leg his uncle whittled for him-the peg leg that became his nickname.

Voigt, Cynthia. Izzy, Willy-Nilly. New York: NY: Atheneum, 1986.

Summary: A sophomore in high school begins the slow, agonizing adjustment to life after having her leg amputated below the knee.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)

Robinson, Ray. Iron Horse: Lou Gehrig in His Time. New York, NY: Norton, 1990.

Summary: Lou Gehrig, nicknamed the Iron Horse for the number of consecutive games he played for the New York Yankees baseball team, died in 1941 after a two-year struggle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

Arthritis

Gray Heinrichs, Susan and Serge Bloch. Living with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis. Chanhassen, MN: The Child's World, Incorporated, 2002.

Summary: Book explains the physiology of the illness, what causes it, and what it's like to live with it. Concluding sections look at possible treatments and potential cures.

Asthma & Allergies

Getz, David. Thin Air. New York: NY: Holt, 1990.

Summary: Jacob struggles with severe asthma. He also struggles with his family and everyone at his new school to be treated as a regular kid.

Weiss, Jonathan H., Ph.D. Breathe Easy: Young People's Guide to Asthma, Second edition. Washington, DC: Magination Press, An Educational Publishing Foundation Book, American Psychological Association, 2002.

Summary: This book introduces children and adolescents to the mechanics of asthma and explores strategies for self-management of the condition. Anatomical and situational factors in asthma are explained in simple language with illustrative diagrams. Early warning signs of coming attacks and relaxation techniques are described.

Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) & Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

Gantos, Jack. What Would Joey Do?. New York, NY: Farrar Straus, 2002.

Summary: Hyperactive Joey tries to hold things together as his father shows up on a motorcycle to taunt his mother, he is home-schooled with a hostile blind girl, and his feisty grandmother copes with emphysema.

Tunis, Sandra L. Why Can't Jimmy Sit Still?: Helping Children Understand ADHD and Other Learning Disabilities. Far Hills, NJ: New Horizon Press, 2004.

Summary: Jimmy acts like a wiggle-worm. He squirms. He fidgets. He calls out in class, clowns around on the playground and can't concentrate when it's time for homework. When he tries to slow his racing motor, he just can't settle down. Even so, says Michael, Jimmy's best friend and the story's narrator, Jimmy is kind and smart and has a big heart.

Autism & Asperger Syndrome

Martin, Ann M. The Baby-sitters Club #32: Kristy and the Secret of Susan. New York, New York: Scholastic Inc., 1990.
Summary: Kristy babysits a child with autism after school and is fascinated to learn about autism and other disabilities as she gets to know Susan and her family. She deals with her own assumptions, other students' perceptions of children with special needs, and other disability issues.

Morgan Myles, Haley. Practical Solutions to Everyday Challenges for Children with Asperger Syndrome. Shawnee Mission, KS: Autism Asperger Publishing Company, 2002.
Summary: Nine-year old Haley Myles offers practical suggestions for everyday situations faced by children with Asperger Syndrome. Haley has included sections on challenges at school, getting along with others, dealing with emotions, safety tips, first aid, and more.

Prizant, B.M. (Ed.). In our own words: Stories by brothers and sisters of children with autism and PDD. Fall River, MA: Adsum. 1997.
Summary: Brothers and sisters from ages 7 to 13, express their love as well as their disappointment, and how impossible it is to live with their brothers and sisters with Autism, and how they can't imagine living without them.

Werlin, Nancy. Are You Alone on Purpose?. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1994.
Summary: This novel focuses on the lives of two Jewish families, one including an autistic boy and his academically gifted sister, the other featuring a bully who suffers a severe spine injury in a diving accident and is paralyzed from the waist down.

Blindness & Visual impairments

Alexander, Sally. Do You Remember the Color Blue?. New York, NY: Viking, 2000.
Summary: Author answers thirteen thought-provoking questions that children have asked her over the years about being blind. Each one addresses a different aspect of her experience of being blind, from coping with her loss and dealing with people who don't know how to treat a blind person to marrying a man she couldn't see and being a blind mom.

Bernstein, Joanne E. Special Parents, Special Children. Morton Grove, IL: Whitman, 1991.
Summary: Four children talk about living with a special needs parent - one blind, one deaf, one wheelchair bound and one a dwarf.

Beyer, Mark. Ray Charles. New York, NY: The Rosen Publishing Group, Incorporated, 2003.
Summary: Traces the personal life and musical career of the blind singer, musician, and composer, Ray Charles.

Creech, Sharon. Granny Torrelli Makes Soup. New York, NY: Harper Collins, 2003.
Summary: Rosie feels that her friendship with Bailey, who is vision impaired, is threatened when a new girl moves into the neighborhood. After Rosie and Bailey have a falling out, Granny Torrelli reunites them through cooking in her kitchen.

Dorris, Michael. Sees Behind Trees. New York: NY: Hyperion, 1996.
Summary: A visually impaired Native American boy earns the name "Sees Behind Trees" by using his other senses to "see what can't be seen."

Gardner, Sonia. Eagle Feather. Boise, ID: Writers Press, 1997.
Summary: About a blind Native American boy in the mid-19th century.

Kendrick, Deborah. Health Care Professionals Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired. New York, NY: American Foundation for the Blind Press, 2001.
Summary: This nonfiction book profiles several people who are visually impaired who work in a variety of health care jobs, including nursing professor, genetic counselor, and occupational therapist. Each profile contains information about the person as well as the job. The book is designed to assist young adults who are considering careers.

Kurtz, Jane. The Storyteller's Beads. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace, 1998.
Summary: When Ethiopian villagers are forced to flee toward Sudan, two young girls from different backgrounds learn to rely on each other. Sahay is from a Christian family, while Rahel is Jewish and blind. Sahay's offer to lead Rahel through the desert is the beginning of their friendship.

Swenson, John. Stevie Wonder. New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1986.
Summary: Stevie Wonder's life from his birth in Saginaw, Michigan, in1950 through his rapid rise as a Motown artist in the early 1960s and up to his present-day work.

Williams, Tenley. Stevie Wonder. Philadelphia, PA: Chelsea House, 2002.
Summary: Chronicles the life of the popular Grammy-winning composer, pianist and singer who was born blind. Part of the Overcoming Adversity series.

Brain Injury

Aaseng, Nathan and Jay Aaseng. Head Injuries (Venture Book). London, England: Franklin Watts, 1996.
Summary: Discussion of traumatic brain injuries, their symptoms, and possible consequences. Author describes the parts of the brain and their functions and addresses the different types of head injuries, diagnosis, treatment, long-term behavior disorders, and rehabilitation. Emphasis is placed on prevention (seat belts, helmets, etc.) and on developing awareness that head injuries are often underestimated in their severity.

Breese Biagioni, Janelle. Change of Mind: One Family's Journey through Brain Injury. Wake Forest, NC: Lash & Associates Publishing/Training, Incorporated, 2004.
Summary: This is a very personal view into the emotions experienced by a wife and mother of two young children as she was thrust into the complex and confusing world of brain injury.

Goldsmith, Connie. Neurological Disorders. Washington, DC: Thomson Gale, 2001.
Summary: One in a series of four books about "The Amazing Brain," aimed at the middle school audience, this one discusses the effects of pathology on the human brain. Beginning with the everyday changes in brain physiology and chemistry that can cause pain or discomfort to the most devastating diseases, both inherited and acquired.

Joan Esherick, Laurie Glader, Carolyn Bridgemahon. Journey toward Recovery: Youth with Brain Injury. Broomall, PA: Mason Crest Publishers, 2004.
Summary: Jerome is a teen who finds his life changed forever in a split-second accident. In this book readers will learn his story and information about brain injuries and how they affect people's lives.

Landau, Elaine. Head and Brain Injuries (Diseases and People). Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publishers, 2002.
Summary: Author explores the history of injuries to the brain from primitive medical treatment to the sophisticated techniques we use today. She also addresses the consequences that can follow a severe head injury from treatment to recovery to rehabilitation.

Melton, David. A Boy Called Hopeless by M.J. Independence, MO: Independence Press, 1976.
Summarry: Jeremiah Rogers could not walk like other children. He could not speak well. His hands were not coordinated. And even worse, he could not think clearly. Jeremiah's older sister, M.J., invites readers to step into the world of her brain-injured brother.

Moore, Adam. Broken Arrow Boy. Kansas City, KS: Landmark Editions, 1990.
Summary: When Adam was eight years old, he fell and ran an arrow into his head. Nine operations in six months. With rare insight and humor, Adam tells of his ordeal and his determination to get well.

Pascoe, Elaine. Crash: The Body in Crisis. Washington, DC: Thomson Gale, 2003.
Summary: Describes what happens when David and Laura are in a car accident and suffer serious injuries, ranging from a ruptured blood vessel near Laura's spleen to a major artery that bursts in David's brain.

Cancer

Hendricks Bach, Alice. Waiting for Johnny Miracle. New York, NY: Harper and Row.
Summary: Theo and Becky are 17-year-old twins when they find out Becky has a malignant tumor in her right thigh.

Slote, Alfred. Hang Tough, Paul Mather. New York, NY: Harper Collins Children's, 1985.
Summary: Lately, Paul hasn't been allowed to do much of anything, much less play baseball. He's got leukemia, and it's put him into the hospital several times. His parents are so worried, they've forbidden him to play the game he loves so much. They're afraid that if Paul strains himself, his illness may come back a final time ... and maybe even take his life.

Cerebral Palsy

Coopersmith, Gold John. Cerebral Palsy (Health Watch). Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publishers, 2001.
Summary: In this sensitive, scientific discussion, readers are told what it is like to have Cerebral Palsy. Cerebral Palsy strikes about two in one thousand infants yearly in the United States.

Loski, Diana. Dinosaur Hill. Boise, ID: Writers Press, 1995.
Summary: In the town of Maysville, Kentucky, a young girl named Sarah dreams of exploring the giant wooded hill she views daily from her bay window, where she sits in a wheelchair. When she finally gets a chance to climb it on horseback, she discovers a mystery in the form of a deserted mansion.

Nixon, Shelley. From Where I Sit: Making My Way With Cerebral Palsy. Minneapolis, MN: Sagebrush Education Resources, 1999.
Summary: Shelley Nixon loves to laugh, to write stories and poetry, and to challenge herself. In this heartfelt autobiography, she tells readers how she does all this while confined to a wheelchair and living with all the other challenges of cerebral palsy.

Perske, Robert. Don't Stop the Music. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1986.
Summary: Follow our teen hero and heroine (with cerebral palsy) through thrills, romance, and adventure all rolled into this "who-done-it".

Slepian, Jan. The Alfred Summer. New York: NY: Philomel, 2001.
Summary: Groundbreaking novel about four outcasts who build a rowboat over the summer. One boy is mentally retarded and another has cerebral palsy. Reissued edition.

Tuitel, Johnnie and Sharon Lamson. Searching the Noonday Trail. Muskegon, MI: Cedar Tree, 2000.
Summary: It's the first day at a new school for Johnnie Jacobson. It's going to be challenging, but will it be as adventuresome as the summer was?

Cystic Fibrosis

Dudley Gold, Susan. Cystic Fibrosis. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow, 2000.
Summary: Introduces Kenny and clearly explains the symptoms, cause, treatment and prognosis of his condition. Other subjects in the Health Watch series: arthritis, asthma, attention-deficit disorder, bipolar disorder and depression, diabetes, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and muscular dystrophy.

Deaf-Blind

Dash, Joan. World at Her Fingertips: The Story of Helen Keller. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2001.
Summary: Biography of the outstanding woman who overcame her disabilities to be an inspirational public figure. Discusses the cause of Helen Keller's blindness and deafness, her determination to lead a useful life, and the importance of her teacher, Annie Sullivan, in achieving that goal.

Lawlor, Laurie. Helen Keller: Rebellious Spirit. New York: NY: Holiday House, 2001.
Summary: The story of the deaf and blind girl taught to communicate by finger-spelling. She is known worldwide for her intelligence, determination and activism.

McElfresh, Lynn E. Can You Feel the Thunder?. New York, NY: Simon Schuster, 1999.
Summary: If seventh-grader Mic Parsons doesn't pass mathematics, his parents won't let him try out for the baseball team. Mic has mixed feelings about his fifteen-year-old deaf and blind sister Stephenie, but appreciates her in a new way after she helps Mic learn fractions.

Deafness & Hearing Impairment

Benton, Hope. A Thousand Lights. Columbus, OH: Open Minds, Inc., 1996.
Summary: Two brothers, Will and Donnie, one with a severe hearing impairment, climb Mt. Fuji in Japan.

Bernstein, Joanne E. Special Parents, Special Children. Morton Grove, IL: Whitman, 1991.
Summary: Four children talk about living with a special needs parent - one blind, one deaf, one wheelchair bound and one a dwarf.

Blatchford, Claire H. Nick's Mission. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 1995.
Summary: A 12-year-old deaf boy balks at daily speech therapy sessions during summer vacation until a scary encounter with smugglers underscores the importance of communication.

Guccione, Leslie D. Tell Me How the Wind Sounds. New York, New York: Scholastic Inc., 1989.
Summary: Amanda is 15 when she meets Jake on Clark's Island. She is angered at every encounter with him until he tells her he's deaf.

Hodges, Candri. When I Grow Up. Hollidaysburg, PA: Jason & Nordic Publishers, 1995.
Summary: Jimmy is a deaf youth who takes a field trip and encounters various careers of deaf individuals.

Piper, Deb. Jake's the Name, Sixth Grade's the Game. Unionville, NY: Royal Fireworks Press. 1996.
Summary: Jake Zulinski, an otherwise normal 6th grader , regales readers with funny situations he encounters because of his deafness.

Tiefenbacher, Wendy, Ed. Deaf Girls Rule. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press, 2001.
Summary: This book of photographs highlights the 1998-1999 women's basketball team at Gallaudet University. The story of a team of deaf women who advanced to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen is told almost entirely in pictures.

Developmental Disabilities

Goldman Rubin, Susan. Emily in Love. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1997.
Summary: Will they laugh at my clothes? Will I fall in love? Will I get lost? These questions rumble through the mind of Emily on the eve of their first day in high school. Not only is tomorrow her first day in high school, it is also her first day ever in "regular" school, because Emily has a developmental disability.

Diabetes

Antoinette Peacock, Carol, Adair Gregory, and Kyle Carney Gregory. Sugar Was My Best Food: Diabetes and Me. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 1998.
Summary: An eleven-year-old boy describes how he learned that he had diabetes, the effect of this disease on his life, and how he learned to cope with the changes in his life.

Down's Syndrome

Butler, Geoff. The Hangashore. Plattsburgh, NY: Tundra Books, 1998.
Story Profile: Newfoundland story of a young man with Down syndrome who displays courage and kindness towards a judgmental government official. Down Syndrome/Mental Retardation

Josephson, Gretchen. Bus Girl. Cambridge, MA: Brookline Books, 1997.
Summary: Gretchen, through poetry, describes her emotional development toward independence and adult relationships.

Melberg Schwier, Karen. Idea Man. Richmond Hill, Ontario: Diverse City Press, 1997.
Summary: Erin is angry when her parents leave her overnight with family friends. The family's older son, Jim, has Down syndrome and Erin doesn't want to be seen with him because he's known as the Dork, but kids from school witness Jim giving her a hug. She realizes she misjudged him after he helps her with a homework assignment.

Dwarfism/ Short Stature

Bernstein, Joanne E. Special Parents, Special Children. Morton Grove, IL: Whitman, 1991.
Summary: Four children talk about living with a special needs parent - one blind, one deaf, one wheelchair bound and one a dwarf.

Kuklin, Susan. Thinking Big/Mine for a Year: The Story of a Young Dwarf. New York, NY:

iUniverse, Incorporated, 2000.
Summary: Two books in one. Thinking Big is important to eight-year-old Jaime Osborn. Jaime is a dwarf. Her body will grow to average size, but her limbs will always be short. Jaime is one of the Little People of America. Doug the black Labrador is just a pup when he comes to spend a year with George and his foster family. Afterwards, Doug will become a guide dog for a blind person. Since George has problems with his eyes, it's possible that he will need a dog guide one day. Mine for a Year is a remarkable true story of a boy and a dog.

General Disabilities

Benton, Hope. Down the Aisle. Columbus, OH: Open Minds, Inc., 1996.
Summary: The story of two sisters, one of who has a physical disability (Kathryn), as they prepare to participate in a wedding.

Benton, Hope. Whoa, Nellie!. Columbus, OH: Open Minds, Inc., 1996.
Summary: A story of a young girl, Kathryn, who happens to have a physical disability and uses a wheelchair, her friends, and their experiences at summer camp as they search for a favorite horse.

Bernstein, Joanne E. Special Parents, Special Children. Morton Grove, IL: Whitman, 1991.
Summary: Four children talk about living with a special needs parent - one blind, one deaf, one wheelchair bound and one a dwarf.

Byars, Betsy. The Summer of the Swans. New York: NY: Viking, 1970.
Summary: A teenage girl is transformed when her younger brother with special needs disappears while trying to find the swans he had seen the day before.

Gilberts Kachur, Wanda. The Nautilus. Minnetonka, MN: Peytral Publications, 1997.
Summary: Kathryn is an adolescent who longs to be a professional ballet dancer but is seriously injured in a car accident and must face her disabilities.

Kent, Deborah and Kathryn A. Quinlan. Extraordinary People with Disabilities. New York, NY: Children's Press, 1996.
Summary: Nearly 50 men and women with mental or physical disabilities are profiled in this collection including well-known figures as: Thomas Edison, Ludwig van Beethoven, Harriet Tubman, Tom Cruise, Chris Burke, and Robert Dole.

Konigsburg, E.L. The View from Saturday. New York: NY: Atheneum, 1996.
Summary: A wheelchair bound teacher, Mrs. Olinski, returns to teaching after a car accident and shapes four sixth graders into a victorious academic bowl team.

Lee, Linda. Coping with Being Physically Challenged. New York, NY: The Rosen Publishing Group, Incorporated, 1991.
Summary: Gives guidance for young people on handling physical disabilities, with emphasis on problems faced by teens in school and dating.

Meyer, Donald Ed. Views from Our Shoes: Growing Up with a Brother or Sister with Special Needs. Bethesda, MD: Woodbine House, Inc., 1997.
Summary: 45 siblings share their experiences. The children whose essays are featured range in age from 4 to 18 with a variety of special needs, including autism, cerebral palsy, developmental delays, attention deficit disorder, hydrocephalus, visual and hearing impairments, Down syndrome, and Tourette syndrome.

Munoz Ryan, Pam. Becoming Naomi Leon. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2004.
Summary: Naomi and Owen have lived happily with their great-grandmother in her trailer for seven years. Gram has arranged Owen's surgeries for his physical disabilities and helped Naomi begin to speak again. When their mother reappears to claim only Naomi, Gram runs away with the children to Mexico to find their father and their heritage. For grades 4 to 7. Schneider Family Book Award, 2005.

Philbrick, Rodman R. Freak the Mighty. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2001.
Summary: At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.

Savage, Jeff. Top 10 Physically Challenged Athletes. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow, 2000
Summary: Succinct descriptions of special athletes. Included are baseball's Jim Abbott (born with one hand) and pro golfer Casey Martin (who uses a motorized cart because of a circulatory leg disability).

Westridge Young Writers Workshop. Kids Explore the Gifts of Children with Special Needs. Emeryville, CA: Avalon Travel Publishing, 1994.
Summary: Ten kids answer questions about their various disabilities, including brittle bone disease, fetal alcohol syndrome and hemophilia. Elementary school students in the Westridge Young Writers Workshop are responsible for this candid exploration.

Learning Disability, Dyslexia, Reading Disability

Abeel, Samantha. Reach for the Moon. Duluth, MN: Pfeifer-Hamilton Publishers, 1997.
Summary: Samantha, a 13-year-old girl with a learning disability in understanding mathematical concepts, provides a collection of illustrated poems and stories. She writes about her difficulties in middle school, including coping with her disability and the accompanying emotional challenges and the encouragement received by her English teacher to develop her writing talent.

Brinkerhoff, Shirley, Laurie Glader, and Carolyn Bridgemahon. Why Can't I Learn like Everyone Else?: Youth with Learning Disabilities. Broomall, PA: Mason Crest Publishers, 2004.
Summary: One in a series of books to increase awareness of youth with special needs, this edition defines the various diagnoses that fall under the category of learning disabilities.

DeClements, Barthe. Sixth Grade Can Really Kill You. New York: NY: Viking, 1985.
Summary: Helen fears that her limited ability to read will keep her in sixth grade forever, until a new teacher recognizes that she is dyslexic.

Euwer, Virginia. Wolff Probably Still Nick Swansen. New York, NY: Henry Holt, 1988.
Summary: Sixteen-year-old Nick has a learning disability and struggles to endure life in which the other kids make fun of him. He has to take special classes, his date for the prom makes an excuse not to go out with him, and he is not sure about his place in the world.

Goldman Rubin, Susan. Emily Good as Gold. San Diego, CA: Harcourt, 1993.
Summary: Emily Gold, a learning disabled thirteen-year-old, struggles to be independent from her overprotective parents.

Griffith, Joe. How Dyslexic Benny Became a Star. Dallas, TX: Yorktown Press, 1997.
Summary: A fifth-grader who is frustrated and humiliated because he can't read as well as his classmates becomes a star on the football field, and when he is diagnosed with dyslexia, he finds that he has a whole team of people ready to help.

Greenberg, Jan. Chuck Close: Up Close. New York, NY: DK INK, 1998.
Summary: This biography of the portrait artist tells about his undiagnosed childhood problems with dyslexia and learning disabilities, when art was the only subject he enjoyed. Already a famous painter in the 1960s, he was paralyzed from the neck down in 1988. The doctors said his career was over, but Close found a way to keep painting.

Janover, Caroline. The Worst Speller in Jr. High. Minneapolis, MN: Free Spirit Publishing, 1995.
Summary: Starting out in the seventh grade, Katie Kelso finds herself trying to cope with her dyslexia and form a friendship with a very bright boy at school, while she and her family deal with her mother's cancer diagnosis.

Levinson, Harold and Addie Meyer Sanders. Turning Around the Upside-Down Kids: Helping Dyslexic Kids Overcome Their Disorder. New York, NY: M. Evans and Company, Inc., 1992.
Summary: Continuing with the eight characters from The Upside-Down Kids, these students and their compassionate teacher Ms. Jensen, examine the various successful treatments for each child's unique symptoms in a way that is bother comprehensive yet simple to understand.

Peterseil, Tehila. Safe Place. New York, NY: Pitspopany Press, 1996.
Summary: The poignant story of a young girl with learning problems, including ADD and dyslexia. She finds daily life an emotional and psychological struggle. Until one day, a very special teacher enters her life...

Rabe, Berniece. Tall Enough to Own the World. London, England: Watts Franklin, 1989.
Summary: Unable to read, ten-year-old Joey is often in trouble at school for his rebellious behavior until a series of circumstances involving a remedial reading teacher, a neighbor, a cat, and his new stepfather help him conquer his problem.

Sagmiller, Girard J. Dyslexia My Life: One Man's Story of His Life with a Learning Disability. Smithville, MO: DML, 1995.
Summary: Girard's autobiography dealing with dyslexia chronicles his struggles to overcome the ignorance and prejudice of his friends, family, and society in order to succeed in school, business, and life.

Shreve, Susan. Trout and Me. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, Random House, 2002.
Summary: Ben and Trout are best friends and both have ADD and learning disabilities. They have a great time together, but their pranks get them into trouble at school. Ben must make some difficult decisions about his friendship with Trout.

Tunis, Sandra L. Why Can't Jimmy Sit Still?: Helping Children Understand ADHD and Other Learning Disabilities. Far Hills, NJ: New Horizon Press, 2004.
Summary: Jimmy acts like a wiggle-worm. He squirms. He fidgets. He calls out in class, clowns around on the playground and can't concentrate when it's time for homework. When he tries to slow his racing motor, he just can't settle down. Even so, says Michael, Jimmy's best friend and the story's narrator, Jimmy is kind and smart and has a big heart.

Mental Retardation

Goldman Rubin, Susan. Emily Good as Gold. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1993.
Summary: Emily, a 13-year-old girl with mental retardation, experiences adolescence.

Hesse, Karen. Wish on a Unicorn. New York, NY: Penguin Books, 1991.
Summary: A sixth grade girl, Mags, lives in a trailer and has a younger sister named Hannie with mental retardation. Hannie finds an old stuffed unicorn and believes it is magical when strange things start to happen.

Kaufman, Sandra Z. Retarded Isn't Stupid Mom!. Baltimore, MD: Brookes Publishing Co., 1988.
Summary: The mother of a child diagnosed as mildly retarded at age 2 recounts experiences of the child's growing up into an adult.

Mazer, Harry. The Wild Kid. New York: NY: Simon & Schuster Children's, 1998.
Summary: Twelve-year-old Sammy, who is mildly retarded, runs away from home and becomes a prisoner of Kevin, a wild kid living in the woods.

Slepian, Jan. The Alfred Summer. New York: NY: Philomel, 2001.
Summary: Groundbreaking novel about four outcasts who build a rowboat over the summer. One boy is mentally retarded and another has cerebral palsy. Reissued edition.

Willis Holt, Kimberley. My Louisiana Sky. New York: NY: Henry Holt, 1998.
Summary: Tiger Ann Parker, a straight A student, learns to lovingly accept her mentally challenged parents in this touching coming-of-age story.

Mobility and Disability / Service Animals

Benton, Hope. Best Friends. Columbus, OH: Open Minds, Inc., 1996.
Summary: Kathryn, who uses a wheelchair, coaches her friend in coping with a broken leg.

Bernstein, Joanne E. Special Parents, Special Children. Morton Grove, IL: Whitman, 1991.
Summary: Four children talk about living with a special needs parent - one blind, one deaf, one wheelchair bound and one a dwarf.

Christopher, Matt. Wheel Wizards. Boston, MA: Little, Brown, 2000.
Summary: Paralyzed by a car accident and his subsequent anger, a 12-year-old boy grows more positive when he begins to play wheelchair basketball.

Haldane, Suzanne. Helping Hands: How Monkeys Assist People Who Are Disabled. New York, NY: Dutton, 1991.
Summary: Photo essay that introduces a teenage quadriplegic and the capuchin monkey which has been trained to help him.

McMahon, Patricia. Dancing Wheels. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin, 2000.
Summary: Inspiring introduction to a young people's dance troupe that combines stand-up dancers and sit-down dancers in their wheelchairs.

Paralysis

Bang, Molly. Tiger's Fall. New York: NY: Holt, 2001.
Summary: When Lupe falls out of a tree in her Mexican village, she is paralyzed from the waist down. Angry and feeling sorry for herself, Lupe goes to a center for disabled people, who help her realize that her life can still have a purpose.

Werlin, Nancy. Are You Alone on Purpose?. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1994.
Summary: This novel focuses on the lives of two Jewish families, one including an autistic boy and

his academically gifted sister, the other featuring a bully who suffers a severe spine injury in a diving accident and is paralyzed from the waist down.

Perception Disorders/ Impairments

Mass, Wendy. A Mango-Shaped Space. Boston, MA: Little, Brown, 2003.
Summary: Eight-grader Mia has been keeping a secret-even from her best friend, Jenna-ever since third grade, when she realized that not everyone sees a color for each name, number, and sound. Problems at school and her cat's death lead Mia to discoveries about herself and synesthesia. Schneider Family Book Award, 2004.

Polio

Feinberg, Barbara. Franklin D. Roosevelt: Gallant President. New York, NY: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1981.
Summary: A biography of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Freedman, Russell. Franklin Delano Roosevelt. New York, NY: Clarion, 1990.
Summary: At age 39, while a state senator in New York, Roosevelt contracted polio, but he continued in politics and became the 32nd President of the United States.

Kehret, Peg and Denise Shanahan. Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 2000.
Summary: The author describes her battle against polio when she was thirteen and her efforts to overcome its debilitating effects.

Death and Dying

Adler, Carole. Ghost Brother. New York: Clarion Books, 1990.
Summary: Wishing to be like his brother, who's dead but often materializes to give Wally advice and support, Wally enters a skateboarding competition and finally gains the confidence to be himself.

Cleaver, Vera. Belle Pruitt. New York: Lippincott., 1988.
Summary: When her adored baby brother suddenly dies of pneumonia, 11-year-old Belle is left to cope with the devastating effects on her family.

Coerr, Eleanor. Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons., 1977.
Summary: Eleven-year-old Sadako is dying of leukemia. This story portrays Sadako's hope for eventual health and her final acceptance to death. Story revolves around the Japanese legend that one thousand folded paper cranes will restore health.

Fairless, Caroline. Hambone. Plattsburgh, NY: Tundra Books, 1980.
Summary: Ten-year-old Jeremy's painful adjustments to the death of his pet pig mirrors the same feelings of grief, loneliness, and anger over his mother's desertion.

Jones, Penelope. Holding Together. New York, NY: Bradbury Press, 1981.
Summary: Fourth grader Vickie and her fifth grade sister gradually begin to cope with mom's frequent illness, her hospitalization, and her eventual death. In the process the girls begin to rely on their father and each other. Emphasis is on family communication, unity, and "life goes on" despite the tragedy.

Jones, Rebecca. C. Angie and Me. New York, NY: MacMillan, 1981.
Summary: Eleven-year-old Jenna begins to accept her chronic disability through the wise counsel of a terminally ill friend. Emphasizes the importance of life and independence to seriously ill children.

Jukes, Mavis. Blackberries in the Dark. Allen. New York: Alfred A Knopf., 1985.
Summary: This story revolves around 9-year-old Austin's first visit back to his grandparents' farm after his grandfather's death. Grandmother and grandchild cope with their grief by sharing activities that grandfather loved.

Lee, Virginia. The Magic Moth. New York: Seabury Press, 1972.
Summary: Mary Ann, age 10, is dying of an incurable heart disease. The story depicts the confusion and sadness her family feels as her death approaches.

McLendon, Gloria. My Brother Joey Died. New York: Julian Messner, 1982.
Summary: A young girl seems unable to grieve the death of a younger brother by Reye's syndrome. The girl and her family learn to cope through professional counseling.

Osborne, Mary Pope. Run, Run as Fast as You Can. New York: Dial Press. 1982.
Summary: Eleven-year-old Hallie is "kept in the dark" about her younger brother's impending death--a fact she intuitively knows. Shows difficulty of Hallie's grieving due to parental secretiveness.

Palmer, Pat. Wish I Could Hold Your Hand: A Child's Guide to Grief and Loss. San Luis Obispo, CA: Impact Publishers, 1994.
Summary: This book helps explain that to children- that feeling sad is normal when you lose someone or something important to you.

Simon, Norma. We Remember Philip. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 1979.
Summary: Sam and his classmates help their teacher grieve for the death of his son. Included are many positive ways of helping a friend mourn such as listening, encouraging the bereaved to cry, planting living memorials.

Smith, Doris. A Taste of Blackberries. New York, NY: Thomas Crowell. 1973.
Summary: This story depicts the emotions and memories of an 11-year-old boy whose best friend dies of a bee sting. Especially notable is the realistic treatment of a child's mourning, guilt, and ultimate acceptance that life can and must continue even after a great loss.

Wallace-Brodeur, Ruth. The Kenton Year. New York: Atheneum. 1980.
Summary: Nine-year-old Mandy learns to deal with the accidental death of her father and with her mother's new romance. Throughout the grief cycle, Mandy develops new strengths and new kinds of happiness.

Wallace-Brodeur, Ruth. One April Vacation. New York: Atheneum. 1981.
Summary: Because of a superstition, 9-year-old Kate believes she has just 1 week to live. She discusses her fear of death with a spritely elderly aunt who advises her to live her last week to its fullest.

White, E. B. Charlotte's Web. New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1952.
Summary: An animal fantasy about the special relationship between Charlotte the spider and Wilbur, the pig. Charlotte helps Wilbur see that despite her death, she will live on in Wilbur's memories.

Nine Ways to Evaluate Children's Books that Address Disability as Part of Diversity (Information from CircleofInclusion.org)

1) Check The Illustrations

Look for Stereotypes. A stereotype is an over-simplified generalization about a particular group, race, or sex, which usually carries derogatory implications. Some common stereotypes suggested by Derman-Sparks and the Anti-Bias Curriculum Task Force (1989) include Native-Americans as being naked and savage or "Primitive" crafts persons; or African-Americans as being happy-go-lucky, watermelon-eating Sambos or fat, eye-rolling "mammys." Children's books should not help support or perpetuate any stereotypes. Consequently, books that represent children with disabilities should do so in ways that do not promote stereotypes. For example, look for books that show children with disabilities in the same classes as their non-disabled peers, participating in the same activities as their peers.

Look for Tokenism. The term tokenism was originally created in order to address the issue of how minorities are represented in books. For example, in evaluating tokenism in a book, one would look to see if all minority faces appeared stereotypically alike or if they are depicted as genuine individuals with distinctive features. In the same respect, it is desirable that children with disabilities be represented in books as genuine individuals with distinctive features. It is appropriate to have a child with a physical disability in a wheelchair or using another type of adaptive device as long as the reader also views the child as being a distinctive individual with his/her own personality and characteristics.

Who's Doing What? The illustrations should depict children with disabilities in leadership and action roles. The children with disabilities should not only be active observers while the children without disabilities are always the "doers."

2) Check The Story Line

Standard for Success. To gain acceptance and approval, the child with a disability should not have to exhibit extraordinary qualities, such as exceptional memory or math skills. The child should not have to walk or run with his friends to be accepted by them.

Resolution of Problems. Look at how the problems in the story are presented, conceived and resolved. The person with the disability should not be considered part of the "the problem." When appropriate, the reasons for the disabilities should be explained to the child.

Role of Person With a Disability. The achievements of the person with a disability should be based on his/her own initiative and intelligence. This story should be able to be told in the same way even if the main character did not have a disability.

3) Look at the Lifestyles

If the person with the disability is depicted as "different," no negative value judgments should be implied. The illustrations and text should offer genuine insights into another person.

4) Weigh the Relationships Between People

The people without disabilities should not possess all of the power, take all of the leadership roles, and make all of the important decisions. The children with disabilities should not only function in supportive or, subservient roles. Neither should the reverse be true. There should be a clear balance of roles.

5) Consider the Effects on a Child's Self-Image

Norms should not be established which limit any child's aspirations and self-concept. By continuously bombarding a child with a disability with images of "typical" children as the ultimate in beauty, cleanliness, and virtue, we are harming the child's self-image. In each story, there should be at least one or more persons with whom a child with a disability can readily identify as a positive and constructive role model.

6) Consider the Author's or Illustrator's Background

Analyze the biographical material on the jacket flap or the back of the book. Look for qualities that the author or illustrator may have that would help them understand and contribute knowledgeably to a specific theme or topic.

7) Check Out the Author's Perspective

No author can be entirely objective. All authors write from a cultural as well as from a personal context. Children's books in the past have traditionally come from authors who were white, non disabled, and who were members of the middle class, with the result being a single ethnocentric perspective dominated children's literature in the United States (Derman-Sparks & the A.B.C. Task Force, 1989). With any book in question, read carefully to determine whether the direction of the author's perspective substantially weakens or strengthens the value of his/her written work.

8) Watch for Loaded Words

A word is loaded when it has offensive overtones. Examples of loaded adjectives specific to children with disabilities are "slow," "retarded," "lazy," "docile," "backwards," "crazy," "feeble-minded," "cripple," "idiot," "deaf," "dumb," and sometimes "special."

9) Look at the Copyright Date and Target Age

There are not many books written about children with disabilities. The limited number that are available are dated and use language that is not "people first" (a child with autism, instead of an autistic child) or may now be considered offensive, such as the current term "retarded." Most newer books use "people first" language, however, make sure to check all books for people first language because some authors may not be as familiar with the importance of its use.
Some books state that they are intended for very young children, but in fact they are not written for children as young as the authors claim. Before reading a book to a class make sure it is developmentally appropriate for the children to whom you are going to read it.

Adapted from:
Council on Interracial Books for Children (1980). *Guidelines for selecting bias-free and storybooks.*
Derman-Sparks, L., & the ABC Task Force. (1989). *Anti-bias curriculum: Tools for empowering young children.* Washington, D.C.: National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Sources

This Bibliography is used as a reference. Sources for all information including book titles, publishers, and all summaries, were taken from the resources below.

Amazon.com Internet Website:
Amazon.com

Barnes and Noble Internet Website:
Barnesandnoble.com

The Council for Exceptional Children, Information Center on Disabilities and Gifted Education:
http://ericec.org/fact/kidbooks.html

Special Needs Project:
http://www.specialneeds.com/booklist.asp?id=10&cat=Children%27s+Books

American Library Association, Chicago, IL:
http://www.ala.org/ala/awardsbucket/schneideraward/bibliography.htm

San Francisco Public Library – Page Title, Yes, We Can! Books about children living with all kinds of disabilities.
http://sfpl.lib.ca.us/sfplonline/kids/booklists/yeswecan.htm

DisabilityWorld.org:
http://www.disabilityworld.org/Aug-Sept2000/Children/unique.html

National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities:
http://www.nichcy.org/pubs/bibliog/bib5txt.htm

The Pediatric Network:
http://www.pediatricnetwork.org/store/life/childbooksillness.htm

Children's Disabilities Information, ChildrensDisabilities.info:
http://www.childrensdisabilities.info

Guides to Children's Literature about Disabilities, UCanDo.org:
http://www.ucando.org/guides.html

Books about Death and Dying, College of Agricultural Sciences, Penn State University from Pacific Northwest Extension Publication:
http://www.penpages.psu.edu/penpages_reference/28507/285072304.html

Information about Evaluating Children's Books, CircleofInclusion.org:
circleofinclusion.org/english/books/section1/a.html

Curriculum Programs, Adoption.com:
http://library.adoption.com/Special-Needs/Disability-Awareness/article/5440/1.html