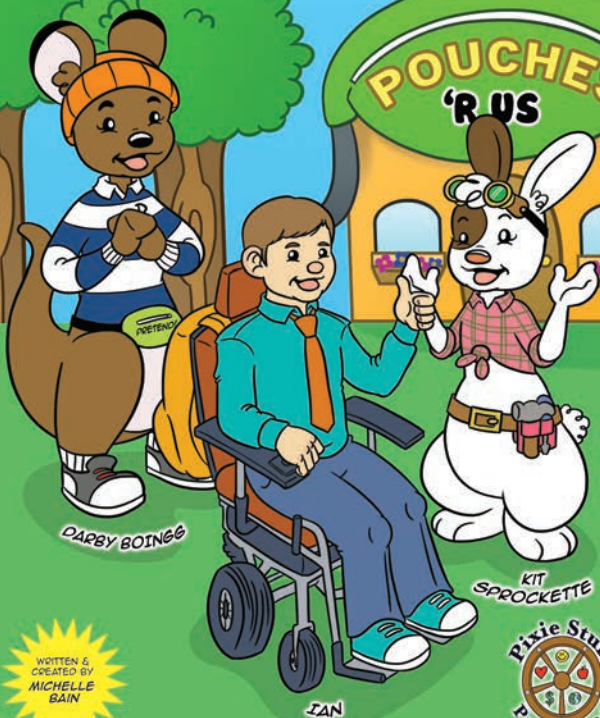


DARBY BOINGG
HAS AN ADVENTURE AND

MEETS A PERSON WITH DISABILITIES



WRITTEN &
CREATED BY
MICHELLE
BAIN



**PROACTIVE
PARENTS/GUARDIANS
GUIDE**

dis·abil·i·ty

noun \, dis-ə -'bi-lə -tē \

A condition (such as an illness or an injury) that damages or limits a person's physical or mental abilities

-- Merriam Webster Dictionary



HI, PARENT/GUARDIAN!

I'M DARBY BOINGG! MAYBE YOUR CHILD HAS A DISABILITY AND IS LEARNING TO COPE WITH IT. MAYBE YOU KNOW SOMEONE WITH A DISABILITY AND WANT TO HELP YOUR CHILD SEE HOW THAT PERSON IS DIFFERENT AND THE SAME. THIS LITTLE BOOK WAS WRITTEN TO HELP YOU TEACH YOUR CHILD ABOUT DISABILITIES AND HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN ABOUT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. WE CREATED THE BOOK *DARBY BOINGG HAS AN ADVENTURE AND MEETS A PERSON WITH DISABILITIES* TO TEACH KIDS ABOUT HOW LIFE IS DIFFERENT WITH A DISABILITY AND INSPIRE HOPE. LET'S GET ROLLIN'!

DARBY BOINGG

DISCLAIMER. This book provides general information about disabilities and health-related issues. This information does not constitute medical advice and is not intended to be used as a solitary reference on the subject matter, for the diagnosis or treatment of a health problem, or as a substitute for consulting a licensed healthcare professional. Consult with a qualified physician or healthcare practitioner to discuss specific individual issues or health needs, and to professionally address personal, emotional, health, physical, nutritional or medical concerns.



ABILITIES, NOT DISABILITIES

IN THE BOOK *DARBY BOINGG HAS AN ADVENTURE AND MEETS A PERSON WITH DISABILITIES*, KIDS JOIN DARBY AND KIT SPROCKETTE AS THEY MEET THEIR FRIEND IAN. IAN IS A YOUNG MAN WHO HAS LEARNED HOW TO DEAL WITH HIS DISABILITY. JUST LIKE DARBY'S SHOP WITH ITS MANY SHAPES, SIZES AND TYPES OF POUCHES AND PACKS, DARBY AND KIT LEARN THAT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HAVE THE SAME INTERESTS AND WISHES AS OTHER KIDS.

THE BOOK STARTS OUT WITH A PRE-TEST THAT YOU CAN HAVE YOUR KIDS TAKE TO SEE WHAT THEY KNOW ABOUT DISABILITIES BEFORE READING THE BOOK. HAVE THEM TAKE THE TEST AGAIN AT THE END OF THE BOOK TO SEE WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED AND COMPARE THEIR ANSWERS.

TALK WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT KIDS WITH DISABILITIES

IT'S LIKELY THAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS SOMEONE WITH A DISABILITY. THE PERSON MAY BE A CLASSMATE, A NEIGHBOR, SOMEONE FROM CHURCH OR A RELATIVE. BUT IF NOT, YOUR CHILD MAY BOMBARD YOU WITH A STEADY STREAM OF QUESTIONS AS TO WHAT'S UP WITH THIS PERSON WHO SEEMS SO DIFFERENT. THE WAY YOU REACT CAN HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON HOW YOUR CHILD REACTS TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AS SHE OR HE GROWS UP.

TEACH INCLUSION AND ACCEPTANCE!

Let your child see that a person with a disability is invited and welcomed in all activities and events.

Make sure your child knows that different doesn't mean bad. A person with a physical disability is often intelligent and gifted in other areas. Find out!

Talk about disabilities in an open and normal way, so the matter seems natural and easy to discuss.



ANSWER YOUR CHILD'S NATURAL CURIOSITY WITH OPENNESS AND HONESTY. USE PLAIN AND RESPECTFUL LANGUAGE WHEN TALKING ABOUT A PERSON WITH DISABILITIES.

TALKING POINTS

"He uses a wheelchair so he can get around, just like you use your legs to walk."

BASIC IDEAS TO SHARE



- YOU CAN'T CATCH A DISABILITY FROM SOMEONE.
- NO TWO PEOPLE ARE EXACTLY THE SAME. SOME DIFFERENCES ARE MORE NOTICEABLE THAN OTHERS.
- A DISABILITY IS JUST ONE TRAIT A PERSON MAY HAVE. EACH HAS HIS OR HER OWN LIKES AND DISLIKES, STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES.
- PEOPLE CAN BE BORN WITH A DISABILITY OR GET ONE BECAUSE OF A HEALTH CONDITION OR INJURY.
- REMEMBER THAT KIDS WITH DISABILITIES ARE LIKE ALL KIDS: THEY WANT FRIENDS, RESPECT AND TO BE INCLUDED.
- JUST BECAUSE A PERSON HAS A PHYSICAL DISABILITY DOESN'T MEAN THAT THEY DON'T THINK AND HAVE FEELINGS JUST LIKE YOU.
- PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES CAN DO MANY OF THE SAME THINGS YOU CAN. THEY MAY NEED HELP, SPECIAL GEAR OR MORE TIME, BUT THEY CAN ACHIEVE MANY OF THE SAME TASKS.

NO JOKE

LET YOUR CHILD KNOW THAT JOKING, NAME-CALLING AND BULLYING ARE NOT TO BE TOLERATED IN ANY FORM. KIDS WITH DISABILITIES OFTEN HAVE A HARD ENOUGH TIME WITHOUT THE JOKES AND RIDICULE THEY'RE LIKELY TO HEAR. TELL YOUR CHILD THAT NAME-CALLING AND USING WORDS LIKE "RETARDED" AND "DUMB" ARE MEAN AND HURTFUL. TEACH YOUR CHILD TO SAY SORRY WHEN HE OR SHE HAS HURT ANOTHER CHILD'S FEELINGS.



GET THE WORD OUT

THESE WORDS ARE HURTFUL AND SHOULD NEVER BE USED TO DESCRIBE SOMEONE WITH A DISABILITY:

- CRIPPLED
- RETARDED
- HANDICAPPED
- DUMB
- INVALID
- DEFORMED

DON'T USE THESE WORDS AND MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS NOT USING THEM EITHER.

TALKING POINTS

"I saw you looking at that little boy who is a wheelchair user. His muscles don't work like ours do. The wheelchair helps him get to the same places we need to get to."

DON'T STARE... ASK!

ASK IF YOUR CHILD HAS QUESTIONS WHEN SEEING A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY. STARING IS OFTEN RUDE AND CAN MAKE THE PERSON STARED AT FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE. MOST WOULD RATHER YOU ASK QUESTIONS THAN SIMPLY STARE AND WONDER.

BE MATTER-OF-FACT

YOU DON'T NEED TO GO INTO GREAT DETAIL OR BECOME EMOTIONAL AS YOU EXPLAIN. SOMETIMES THE APPROACH THAT'S STRAIGHT AHEAD AND SIMPLEST IS BEST.

TALKING POINTS

"His wheelchair helps him to get around because he may have difficulty walking or can't walk."

FOCUS ON WHAT'S THE SAME

A KID IS A KID. EVEN IF HE HAS A DISABILITY, STRESS TO YOUR CHILD WHAT HE OR SHE HAS IN COMMON WITH THE CLASSMATE, RELATIVE OR NEIGHBOR. MAYBE IT'S THE SAME HOBBIES OR SPORTS TEAMS, SAME AGE, SAME SCHOOL, SAME FAVORITE FOODS, TV SHOWS OR MOVIES. FOCUS ON THE WAYS IN WHICH WE'RE THE SAME INSTEAD OF DIFFERENT AND YOUR CHILD WILL UNDERSTAND AND LEARN TO ACCEPT.



DISABILITY ETIQUETTE

DO...

KEEP YOUR EXPLANATIONS SHORT AND SIMPLE, ESPECIALLY WITH YOUNGER KIDS.

"He uses a wheelchair because he has trouble walking."

TALK ABOUT IT IN PRIVATE.

Sometimes answering all of your child's questions will go beyond the public setting. It's a good idea to sit down at home and further discuss the matter.

MAKE THE TALK AGE-SPECIFIC.

Short and sweet is good for the younger kids, but older ones may need more info. Don't be afraid to explore the topic at greater lengths with your older children.

KEEP RESEARCHING AND BE READY.

Get ready for the talk by doing some basic research beforehand. Know the difference between paraplegic and quadriplegic, for example. Have a plan for looking up answers to your child's questions that you may not know.

LAY DOWN SOME BASIC RULES.

Remind them that staring, pointing and yelling "What's the matter with them?!" is never right.

DON'T...

SCOLD YOUR CHILD FOR ASKING.

Asking questions about things they don't understand is natural and should be encouraged.

TREAT DISABILITY AS SOMETHING BAD OR WRONG.

It's an unfortunate part of life but it's not something that should be looked at negatively.

THINK ALL DISABILITIES CAN BE SEEN.

Just because they can't see a disability doesn't mean it isn't there. Teach your kids that there are different kinds of disabilities, some that can be seen and some not.

ASSUME A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY NEEDS OR WANTS HELP.

Though things people without disabilities take for granted may seem hard for those with disabilities, they are doing things the way they know how, on their own terms and in their own time.

LEAN OR HANG ON SOMEONE'S WHEELCHAIR.

Wheelchairs are an extension of personal space. Your kids wouldn't want someone sitting on their desk while they're trying to work. Respect a person's belongings.

SET APART THE PERSON FROM THE CONDITION

IT IS NOT CORRECT TO REFER TO SOMEONE WITH AUTISM AS "THE AUTISTIC PERSON." A PERSON WITH DIABETES IS NOT A "DIABETIC," NOR IS SOMEONE WITH ASTHMA AN "ASTHMATIC." WE AS PEOPLE AREN'T DEFINED BY OUR CONDITIONS AND DISABILITIES. SHE'S JUST A CHILD WITH AUTISM. HE'S JUST A MAN WITH DIABETES. SHE'S JUST A YOUNG GIRL WITH ASTHMA. PUT "PEOPLE" FIRST!

ALL DIFFERENT IN SOME WAY

REMEMBER THE OLD SAYING, "TREAT OTHERS THE WAY YOU WOULD WANT TO BE TREATED"? IT'S STILL GOOD ADVICE, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR OUTLOOK ON THOSE WITH DISABILITIES. IT'S A GOOD LESSON TO TEACH YOUR CHILD AND A PERFECT STARTING POINT. WE'RE ALL DIFFERENT. SOME OF US WEAR GLASSES TO HELP US SEE, HEARING AIDS TO HELP US HEAR, DENTURES TO HELP US CHEW AND SO ON.

I LOVE PLAYING, EVEN THOUGH IT TOOK A WHILE BEFORE I EVEN HAD THE COURAGE TO TRY.

WOW!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU
PLAY BASKETBALL.
I DO, TOO!

RECOGNIZING AND RESPECTING ASSISTIVE GEAR

A SPECIAL JOB TO DO

YOUR CHILD MAY THINK SOMEONE'S WHEELCHAIR IS COOL AND FUN, BUT IT'S NOT A TOY OR AN AMUSEMENT PARK RIDE. YOUR CHILD MAY WANT TO PET AND PLAY WITH A SERVICE DOG, BUT IT'S GOT A VERY SPECIAL JOB TO DO. EQUIPMENT USED BY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES SERVES A PURPOSE. HELP YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND AND RESPECT THE SPECIAL GEAR.



TALKING POINT

"Wheelchairs help people with certain disabilities get where they need to go."

TALKING POINT

"Sometimes people need a Personal Care Assistant. This is a person who helps people with disabilities with their daily activities."



TALKING POINT

"Service animals are trained to help people with many types of disabilities."

WHEN YOUR CHILD HAS A DISABILITY

HELP YOUR CHILD EMBRACE HIS OR HER ABILITIES

FOCUS ON THE POSITIVES OF WHAT YOUR CHILD CAN DO, RATHER THAN WHAT HE OR SHE CAN'T DO OR IS LIMITED IN DOING.

LEARN ABOUT THE DISABILITY

THE MORE YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S DISABILITY, THE MORE YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD AND YOURSELF.

TURN CHALLENGES INTO SUCCESSES

FINDING OTHER WAYS TO DO TASKS IS THE KEY TO EVERYDAY SUCCESSES. LIKE IAN IN OUR STORY, OVERCOMING OBSTACLES AND FIGURING OUT OTHER WAYS OF GETTING PLACES AND DOING THINGS WAS REWARDING.



LEARN FROM THE PROS AND OTHER PARENTS

YOUR CHILD'S SPECIAL NEEDS MAY BE DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS, BUT MOST LIKELY THEY'RE THE SAME AS OTHER KIDS WHO HAVE CONQUERED THEIR OBSTACLES. USE DOCTORS, THERAPISTS AND OTHER PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES FOR THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE.

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LEARN ABOUT HOW TECHNOLOGY CAN HELP

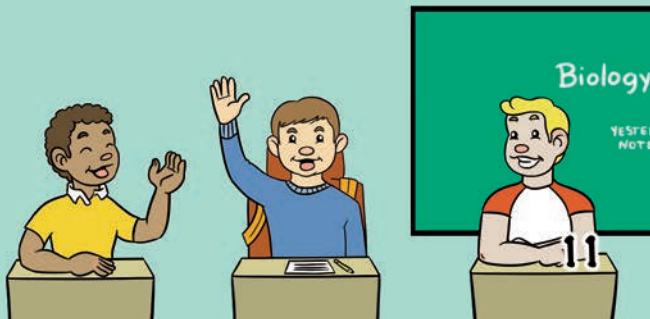
MEDICAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HAS ADVANCED GREATLY IN RECENT YEARS. THESE ADVANCEMENTS IN MOBILITY GEAR, COMMUNICATION DEVICES AND OTHER ADAPTIVE TOOLS CAN VASTLY IMPROVE THE LIFE OF A PERSON WITH DISABILITIES.

WORK WITH TEACHERS AND SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATORS

DEVELOP A GAME PLAN, SCHEDULE, RULES AND SPECIALIZED LESSON PLAN TO HELP TEACH YOUR CHILD. FIGURE OUT WHAT METHODS WORK BEST AND WHICH ONES DON'T WORK AT ALL. KEEP AN OPEN AVENUE OF COMMUNICATION WITH THESE EDUCATORS AT ALL TIMES.

BE PATIENT

STAY POSITIVE AND OPTIMISTIC. DON'T RUSH TO FIND ANSWERS AND FORCE YOUR CHILD TO ADAPT OR DEAL WITH BARRIERS BEFORE HIS OR HER TIME. YOUR CHILD IS LIKE ANY OTHER AND HAS A LIFETIME IN WHICH TO LEARN AND GROW.



DISABILITY SUPPORT GROUPS

THERE ARE MANY SUPPORT GROUPS AVAILABLE, BOTH IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND ONLINE, FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND PARENTS OF KIDS WITH DISABILITIES. GO ONLINE AND SEARCH OUT THE ONES THAT ARE BEST FOR YOU AND YOUR SITUATION, AS WELL AS YOUR SCHEDULE. SUPPORT GROUPS OFFER IDEAS AND ANSWERS FROM MEMBERS GOING THROUGH THE SAME THINGS YOU ARE. SHARE YOUR QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS AND OFFER YOUR OWN ANSWERS. THE RESULTS WILL BE REWARDING.



RETURN OF THE TEST

ONCE YOUR CHILD HAS FINISHED READING *DARBY BOINGS HAS AN ADVENTURE AND MEETS A PERSON WITH DISABILITIES*, HAVE HIM OR HER TAKE THE TEST AGAIN AT THE END OF THE BOOK. SEE WHAT THEY LEARNED THAT THEY MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN BEFORE READING THE BOOK.

HOPEFULLY YOU AND YOUR CHILD ARE MORE AWARE OF THE ABILITIES AND NEEDS THAT A PERSON WITH DISABILITIES MAY HAVE. YOU'VE HELPED YOUR CHILD LEARN, GROW AND BECOME MORE ACCEPTING OF A SUBJECT THAT MAY HAVE BEEN UNKNOWN BEFORE.

RESOURCES

DISABILITY.GOV

EASTER SEALS DISABILITY SERVICES
EASTERSEALS.COM

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN
WITH DISABILITIES
SUPPORTFORFAMILIES.ORG

NATIONAL CENTER FOR
LEARNING DISABILITIES
NCLD.ORG

PARENTS HELPING PARENTS
PHP.COM

FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
FCSN.ORG

TURNING DISABILITIES INTO ABILITIES IS EVERYONE'S CONCERN!

USE THIS BOOK TO HELP TEACH YOUR
CHILD ABOUT:

- DISABILITY ACCEPTANCE
- RIGHT AND WRONG WORDS TO USE
- FOCUSING ON SIMILARITIES
- DISABILITY ETIQUETTE
- ASSISTIVE GEAR
- RESOURCES AND MORE



HI, I'M IAN.
LIFE WITH A DISABILITY
HAS ITS CHALLENGES, BUT IT
HASN'T STOPPED ME FROM
DOING THE THINGS I WANT
TO DO AND LIVING OUT MY
DREAMS OF HELPING
OTHERS. I HOPE THIS
BOOK BRINGS ABOUT
AWARENESS AND
TURNS DISABILITIES
INTO ABILITIES!

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ILLUSTRATED AND DESIGNED BY FOX SMITH

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KEEP THE PLANET HEALTHY!
THIS BOOK WAS PRINTED
ON RECYCLED PAPER!



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