

Picture Books to Encourage Disability Awareness, Acceptance, & Inclusion

Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, & Inclusion Month, February 2022

By: Rebecca Rubin Seligson

- *Sign Language Shabbat* by Alissa Greenbacher & Jennifer Rosner – Ages – Birth and up: Learn Shabbat-related sign language.
- *It's OK to be Different* by Todd Parr – Ages 2-5: A great “jumping off” book to begin a discussion about what makes everyone different.
- *We're Different, We're the Same* by Bobbi Jane Kates – Ages 2- 5: A “Sesame Street” book learning about what makes us different and what makes us the same.
- *I See You See* by Richard Jackson – Ages 3-6: A story about a brother and sister who take an imagination-filled walk together, transforming a simple stroll to an adventure filled with wonder.
- *Amazing* by Steve Antony – Ages 3-6: A young boy shares of his adventures with his pet dragon, Zibbo.
- *Some Kids Use Wheelchairs* by Lola M. Schaefer – Ages 3-6: non-fiction series teaching readers about wheelchairs. Part of a series and includes the following additional titles: *Some Kids are Blind*, *Some Kids Wear Leg Braces*, & *Some Kids Are Deaf*. All books include 4D access to the Capstone 4D app allowing readers to dive further into these topics.
- *Ivy the Very Determined Dog* by Chris & Maureen Harrington – Ages 3-6: With the help of a new wheelchair and encouraging friends, Ivy the Dog shows the world that she is determined to have fun and enjoy life.
- *Different – A Great Thing to Be* by Heather Avis – Ages 3-6: Meet Macy, who teaches those around her the beauty of being different.
- *The Abilities in Me – Superstar Siblings* by Gemma Keir – Ages 3-6: Learn about the role that brothers & sisters play growing up with a sibling with a disability. Part of a large series that includes titles teaching about varying disabilities and health conditions.
- *A Friend for Henry* by Jenn Bailly – Ages 3-6: Henry, a young boy with Autism, makes a new friend.
- *Gary's Gigantic Dream* by Dr. Nicole Julia – Ages 3-7: Gary the Giraffe gets fitted for a new wheelchair.
- *Lia's Kind Mind* by Dr. Nicole Julia – Ages 3-7: Lia the Lion learns to embrace her differences – and her fear of the balance beam in gymnastics.
- *Louie's Together Playground* by Dr. Nicole Julia – Ages 3-7: Louie the Llama and his friends build an accessible playground so all his friends can play together, regardless of ability.
- *Hiya Moriah* by Victoria Nelson – Ages 3-7: Get to know Moriah and all the medical equipment she uses on a daily basis – as well as all the things she loves to do, which includes making new friends.
- *Daniel's New Friend* by Becky Friedman – Ages 3-7: Daniel the Tiger meets Chrissie, who wears orthotics and uses crutches to walk. She teaches Daniel and his friends that in some ways they are different, and some ways they are the same.
- *In My Kehilla: A Book About Friends with Disabilities* by Gabrielle Kaplan-Mayer – Ages 3-7: Learn Jewish values that surround our friends with disabilities.
- *Mighty Mila* by Katie Petruzzio – Ages 3-7: Mila is determined to be a “big girl” and do everything herself. She learns that sometimes, being a “big girl” means that it is ok to ask for help.

- *Ada and the Helpers* by Travis D. Peterson – Ages 3-7: Ada helps new friends on her way to dance at her talent show. Learn ASL with her along the way.
- *Yossi and Laibel On The Ball* by Dina Rosenfeld – Ages 3-7: When Yossi and Laibel see that their new neighbor is in a wheelchair, do they include him in their upcoming baseball game?
- *Ricky, The Rock That Couldn't Roll* by Mr. Jay – Ages 3-7: Ricky's friends are determined to create adaptations to make sure that their friend Ricky is included in their fun activity of rolling down the hill.
- *Eli, Included* by Michelle Sullivan – Ages 3-7: New student, Eli, teaches his classmates about Down Syndrome, and while everyone is different, everyone loves to be included.
- *Mighty Miss Maya: See It, Then Be It* by Ann Tisdale – Ages 4-7: Through the power of visualization, Maya does not let any obstacle get in her way of achieving her goals.
- *Little People, Big Dreams: Stephen Hawking* by Maria Isabel Sanches Vegara – Ages 4-8: Biography of scientist Stephen Hawking, who lived with ALS.
- *Just Ask!* by Sonia Sotomayor – Ages 4-8: A book that opens the floor to discussions about different disabilities and medical conditions – and how we can all relate to each other despite what may seem different.
- *Keep Your Ear on the Ball* by Genevieve Petrillo – Ages 4-8: Davey, who is blind, does not need help with anything in school, as he keeps telling his new friends. Except when it comes to kickball. How do his new friends help Davey succeed?
- *Moses Goes to a Concert* by Isaac Millman – Ages 4-8: Moses and his classmates, who are all deaf, attend an orchestral concert. After meeting with the deaf percussionist, they get a special lesson that you can do anything you set your mind to.
- *My Three Best Friends and Me, Zulay* by Cari Best – Ages 4-8: With the help of her three best friends and her aide, Zulay takes her dream of running the race in her school's field day and makes it a reality.
- *When Charlie Met Emma* by Amy Webb – Ages 4-8: An incredibly realistic story of what it is like to meet someone with a disability for the first time.

*Please note that age ranges are just recommendations and if you feel like a book is relevant for other ages, please read it with your child, student, family member - whoever!