Suggested Book List about Persons with Disabilities

Reading Levels: AC = Adult Read to Children JE = Juvenile Easy Reading

**Title:** Andy and His Yellow Frisbee  
**Author:** Mary Thompson  
**Publisher:** Woodbine House, 6510 Bells Mill Road, Bethesda, MD 20817; 1996  
**Disability:** Autism  
**Story Profile:** 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. Rosie knows that Andy is in his own world most of the time, and that he has trouble finding the words to express himself.  
**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** A Picture Book of Helen Keller  
**Author:** David A. Adler  
**Publisher:** Holiday House  
**Disability:** Deaf-Blind  
**Story Profile:** 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.  
**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** Armann and Gentle  
**Author:** Kristin Steinsdottir  
**Publisher:** Stuttering Foundation of America, PO Box 11749, Memphis, TN 38111-0749; 1997  
**Disability:** Stuttering  
**Story Profile:** A six-year-old boy, Armann, stutters when he is frustrated.  
**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** A Very Special Friend  
**Author:** Dorothy Hoffman Levi  
**Publisher:** Gallaudet University Press, Kendall Green, 800 Florida Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002-3695; 1989  
**Disability:** Deafness  
**Story Profile:** Frannie, a lonely little girl, discovers a new friend when a deaf girl her age moves in next door.  
**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** A Very Special Sister  
**Author:** Dorothy Hoffman Levi  
**Publisher:** Gallaudet University Press, Kendall Green, 800 Florida Ave., NE, Washington, DC
Mixed feelings are experienced by Laura, a young deaf girl, upon finding out her mother will soon give birth. Her initial excitement is replaced by worries that the new child, if able to hear, will be more lovable.

Reading Level: AC

Title: *Be Good to Eddie Lee*
Author: Virginia Filling
Publisher: Philomel Books, Putnam & Grosset Group, 200 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016
Disability: Down Syndrome
Story Profile: 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.
Reading Level: AC

Title: *Big Brother Dustin*
Author: Alden R. Carter
Publisher: Albert Whitman & Co., 6340 Oakton Street, Morton Grove, IL 60053-2723; 1997
Disability: Down Syndrome
Story Profile: Dustin, a young boy with Down syndrome, learns that his parents are expecting a baby.
Reading Level: AC

Title: *Cat's Got Your Tongue?*
Author: Charles E. Schaefer, Ph.D.
Publisher: Brunner/Mazel, Publishers, 19 Union Square, New York, NY 10003; 1992
Disability: Communication Disorders, Mutism
Story Profile: Anna, a kindergartner, is diagnosed as an electively mute child.
Reading Level: AC

Title: *Danny and the Merry-Go-Round*
Author: Nan Holcomb
Publisher: Jason and Nordic, Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1987
Disability: Cerebral Palsy
Story Profile: 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.
Reading Level: AC

Title: *Happy Birthday Jason*
Author: C. Jean Cutbill and Diane Rawsthorn
Publisher: IPI Publishing Ltd., 50 Prince Arthur Avenue, Suite 306, Toronto, Ontario, M5R
1B5 Canada; 1984
ISBN #: 0-920702-37-6
Disability: Reading Disability, Dyslexia
Story Profile: 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.
Reading Level: AC

Title: Having a Brother Like David
Author: Cindy Dolby Nollette and Others
Publisher: Minneapolis Children's Medical Center, Early Childhood Center, 2520 Minnehaha Ave., South, Minneapolis, MN 55404; 1985
ISBN #: N/A
Disability: Autism
Story Profile: Marty's brother, David, is autistic. Marty explains that David looks a lot like other children but has special needs.
Reading Level: AC

Title: Ian's Walk: A Story About Autism
Author: Laurie Lears
Publisher: Albert Whitman and Company, 6340 Oakton St., Morton Grove, IL 60053-2723; 1998
ISBN #: 0-8075-3480-3
Disability: Autism
Story Profile: 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.
Reading Level: AC

Title: Keith Edward's Different Days
Author: Karen Melberg Schwier
Publisher: Impact Publishers
Disability: Down Syndrome; Physical Disabilities
Story Profile: Keith meets a variety of people with differences, including Down syndrome and other physical differences, and learns that being different is okay.
Reading Level: AC

Title: Knots on a Counting Rope
Author: Bill Martin and John Archambault
Publisher: Henry Holt
Disability: Blindness
Story Profile: A boy is told a story by his grandfather of a boy born blind.
Reading Level: AC

Title: Luke Has Asthma, Too
Author: Alison Rogers
Publisher: Waterfront Books, 98 Brookes Ave., Burlington, VT 05401; 1987
Inclusive Services for All

Disability: Asthma
Story Profile: Luke has an older cousin who teaches him some aspects of asthma management and serves as a general role model.
Reading Level: AC

Title: My Brother, Matthew
Author: Mary Thompson
Publisher: Woodbine House, 5615 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852; 1992
Disability: Mental Retardation
Story Profile: David is a young boy who describes life with his younger brother, who was born with a mental disability.
Reading Level: AC

Title: My Mom Is Handicapped: A "Grownup" Children's Book
Author: Barbara Turner Brabham
Publisher: Cornerstone Publishing, PO Box 2896, Virginia Beach, VA 23450; 1994
Disability: Physical Disabilities
Story Profile: A six-year-old boy describes life with his mother, a teacher with physical disabilities.
Reading Level: AC

Title: Russ and the Apple Tree Surprise
Author: Janet Elizabeth Rickert
Publisher: Woodbine House, 5615 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852; 1992
ISBN #: 1-890627-16-x
Disability: Down Syndrome
Story Profile: 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.
Reading Level: AC

Title: Russ and the Fire House
Author: Janet Elizabeth Rickert
Publisher: Woodbine House, 5615 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852; 1992
ISBN #: 1-890627-17-8
Disability: Down Syndrome
Story Profile: 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 firemen thank Russ for his hard work and invite him back for another visit.
Reading Level: AC
Title: *Russell Is Extra Special: A Book About Autism for Children*
Author: Charles A. Amenta III, M.D.
Publisher: Brunner/Mazel, Publishers, 19 Union Square, New York, NY 10003; 1992
Disability: Autism
Story Profile: 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.
Reading Level: AC

Title: *Silent Observer*
Author: Christy MacKinnon
Publisher: Gallaudet University Press, Kendall Green, 800 Florida Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002-3695; 1993
Disability: Deafness
Story Profile: 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 trying to understand and be understood by hearing individuals.
Reading Level: AC

Title: *Talking to Angels*
Author: Esther Watson
Publisher: Harcourt Brace, 525 B Street, Suite 1900, San Diego, CA 92101-4495; 1996
Disability: Autism
Story Profile: 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.
Reading Level: AC

Title: *There's a Little Bit of Me in Jamey*
Author: Diana M. Amadeo
Publisher: Albert Whitman & Co., 6340 Oakton Street, Morton Grove, IL 60053-2723
Disability: Leukemia
Story Profile: Brian struggles with the fact that his brother Jamey has leukemia and he submits to a bone marrow test, which leads to a transplant.
Reading Level: AC

Title: *Thomas Alva Edison: Great Inventor*
Author: David A. Adler
Publisher: Holiday House
Disability: Deafness
Story Profile: Thomas Edison's life and his many inventions, despite his deafness, that shape our lives today are explored in this book.
Reading Level: AC
Title: What Do You Mean I Have a Learning Disability?
Author: Kathleen M. Dwyer
Publisher: Walker and Company, 720 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10019; 1991
Disability: Learning Disabilities
Story Profile: Ten-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.
Reading Level: AC

Title: What It's Like to Be Me
Author: Helen Exley
Publisher: Friendship Press, 1984
Disability: Various Disabilities
Story Profile: 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.
Reading Level: AC

Title: You Can Call Me Willy: A Story for Children about AIDS
Author: Joan C. Verniero
Publisher: Brunner/Mazel Publishers, 19 Union Square West, New York, NY 10003; 1995
Disability: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
Story Profile: Willy is an eight-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.
Reading Level: AC

Title: Andy Opens Wide
Author: Nan Holcomb
Publisher: Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1990
Disability: Cerebral Palsy
Story Profile: 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.
Reading Level: JE

Title: Anna Joins In
Author: Katrin Arnold
Publisher: Abingdon Press, 201 Eighth Ave. South, Nashville, TN 37202
Disability: Cystic Fibrosis
Story Profile: Anna is a young girl who has a difficult pattern to her days because she has cystic fibrosis.
Reading Level: JE

Title: A Smile from Andy
Author: Nan Holcomb
Publisher: Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1989
Inclusive Practices for All

Disability: Cerebral Palsy
Story Profile: 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.
Reading Level: JE

Title: Buddy’s Shadow
Author: Shirley Becker
Publisher: Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1991
Disability: Down syndrome
Story Profile: Buddy, a five-year-old boy with Down syndrome, purchases a puppy.
Reading Level: JE

Title: Can’t You Be Still?
Author: Sarah Yates
Publisher: Gima B. Publishing Inc., Box #713-740 Corydon Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3M 0Y1; 1992
Disability: Cerebral Palsy
Story Profile: Ann, who has cerebral palsy, attends school for the first time.
Reading Level: JE

Title: Charlsie’s Chuckle
Author: Clara Widess Berkus
Publisher: Woodbine House, 5615 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852; 1992
Disability: Down syndrome
Story Profile: Charlsie, a seven-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.
Reading Level: JE

Title: Cookie
Author: Linda Kneeland
Publisher: Jason and Nordic, Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1989
Disability: Down Syndrome
Story Profile: Molly, a four-year-old girl with Down syndrome, has difficulty talking. Her frustration with communication difficulties is relieved when someone comes to teach her sign language.
Reading Level: JE

Title: Fair and Square
Author: Nan Holcomb
Publisher: Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1992
Disability: Physical Disabilities
Story Profile: 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.
Reading Level: JE
Title: How About a Hug
Author: Nan Holcomb
Publisher: Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1987
Disability: Down Syndrome
Story Profile: 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.
Reading Level: JE

Title: I'm Like You, You're Like Me: A Child's Book about Understanding and Celebrating Each Other
Author: Cindy Gainer
Publisher: Free Spirit Publishing, Inc., 400 First Avenue North, Suite 616, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1724; 1998
Disability: General Disabilities
Story Profile: 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.
Reading Level: JE

Title: Joey and Sam
Author: Ilana Katz and Edward Ritvo
Publisher: Real Life Story Books; 1993
Disability: Autism
Story Profile: Sam is five and has autism, and Joey is his six-year-old brother. They describe an ordinary day at home and at school, showing some of the ways they are different and alike.
Reading Level: JE

Title: Kathy's Hats: A Story of Hope
Author: Trudy Krisher
Publisher: Albert Whitman & Co., 6340 Oakton St., Morton Grove, IL 60053; 1992
Disability: Cancer
Story Profile: Kathy is a young girl who develops cancer and loses her hair as a result of chemotherapy.
Reading Level: JE

Title: Kevin's Story
Author: Dvora Levinson, Ph.D.
Publisher: IPI Publishing Ltd., 50 Prince Arthur Avenue, Suite 306, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 1B5 Canada; 1984
ISBN #: 0-920702-22-88
Disability: Reading Disability, Dyslexia
Story Profile: Kevin exhibits reading problems and is referred for testing to a psychologist who explains reading and learning disabilities to him and his family.
Reading Level: JE
Title: *Luna and the Big Blur: A Story for Children Who Wear Glasses*  
Author: Shirley Day  
Publisher: Magination Press, 19 Union Square West, New York, NY 10003; 1995  
Disability: Visual Impairments  
Story Profile: Luna resents the fact that she needs glasses to correct her nearsightedness.  
Reading Level: JE

Title: *My Sister Is Different*  
Author: Betty Ren Wright  
Publisher: Steck-Vaughn Company, PO Box 26015 Austin, TX 78755; 1990  
Disability: Mental Retardation  
Story Profile: Carlo tells us what it is like to have an older sister with mental retardation.  
Reading Level: JE

Title: *Naomi Knows It’s Springtime*  
Author: Virginia L. Kroll  
Publisher: Boyds Mills Press Inc., 910 Church St., Honesdale, PA 18431; 1987  
Disability: Blindness  
Story Profile: Naomi tells us of the signs of spring through the mind of the blind.  
Reading Level: JE

Title: *Patrick and Ima Lou*  
Author: Nan Holcomb  
Publisher: Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1994  
Disability: Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida  
Story Profile: 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, Ima Lou, who is six and has spina bifida, they both discover something very important about each other.  
Reading Level: JE

Title: *Sarah and Puffle: A Story for Children about Diabetes*  
Author: Linnea Mulder  
Publisher: Henry Holt; 1992  
Disability: Diabetes  
Story Profile: 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.  
Reading Level: JE

Title: *Sarah’s Surprise*  
Author: Nan Holcomb  
Publisher: Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1990  
Disability: Articulation Impairments  
Story Profile: 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.  
Reading Level: JE
Title: See You Tomorrow, Charles  
Author: Miriam Cohen  
Publisher: Yearling Publishers, 1745 Broadway 10th Floor, New York NY 10019; 1997  
Disability: Blindness  
Story Profile: Charles is a first grader who is adjusting to school as a blind student.  
Reading Level: JE

Title: The Bob (Butterbean) Love Story  
Author: Terry Page and Bob Love  
Publisher: Boo Books, Inc., PO Box 201128, Chicago, Illinois 60620-1128; 1995  
Disability: Speech Impairments  
Story Profile: Bob’s autobiography tells his story: a famous basketball player with a speech impediment.  
Reading Level: JE

Title: The Night Search  
Author: Kate Chamberlin  
Publisher: Richard S. McPhee, Jason & Nordic, Pubs., PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1997  
Disability: Blindness  
Story Profile: Heather, who is blind, resists using her white cane until her puppy wanders off.  
Reading Level: JE

Title: There’s a Blue Square on My Brother’s School Bus  
Author: Sally Craymer  
Publisher: The Wishing Room, Inc., PO Box 58, Studley, VA 23162; 1992  
Disability: Disabilities  
Story Profile: 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.  
Reading Level: JE

Title: Thumbs Up, Rico!  
Author: Maria Testa  
Publisher: Albert Whitman & Co., 6340 Oakton Street, Morton Grove, IL 60053-2723; 1990  
Disability: Down Syndrome  
Story Profile: 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.  
Reading Level: JE

Title: We Can Do It!  
Author: Laura Dwight  
Publisher: Checkerboard Press, Inc., 30 Vesey St., New York, NY 10007; 1992  
Disability: Disabilities  
Story Profile: 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.

**Reading Level:** JE  
**Title:** *We'll Paint the Octopus Red*  
**Author:** Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen  
**Publisher:** Woodbine House, Inc., 6510 Bells Mill Road, Bethesda, MD 20817; 1998  
**Disability:** Down Syndrome  
**Story Profile:** Ima is a little girl who has a new baby brother with Down syndrome.  
**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *What About Me? When Brothers and Sisters Get Sick*  
**Author:** Allan Peterkin, M.D.  
**Publisher:** Brunner/Mazel Publishers, 19 Union Sq. West, New York, NY 10003; 1992  
**Disability:** Chronic Illness  
**Story Profile:** 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.  
**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *When I Grow Up*  
**Author:** Candri Hodges  
**Publisher:** Jason & Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1995  
**Disability:** Deafness  
**Story Profile:** Jimmy is a deaf youth who takes a field trip and encounters various careers of deaf individuals.  
**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *Where's Chimpy?*  
**Author:** Berniece Rabe  
**Publisher:** Albert Whitman & Co., 6340 Oakton Street, Morton Grove, IL 60053; 1988  
**Disability:** Down Syndrome  
**Story Profile:** 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.  
**Reading Level:** JE

'Around and around went the frisbee. Around and around and around, all recess long.' Sarah, the new girl at school, is curious about why Andy spins his yellow frisbee every day by himself on the playground. In fact, Andy's seeming fascination for objects in motion is characteristic of his autism. In fact, Andy's seeming fascination for objects in motion is characteristic of his autism. When Sarah tries to talk to Andy in the playground, Rosie, Andy's older sister, watches and worries about how her brother may react. Rosie knows that Andy is in his own world most of the time, and that he has trouble finding the words to express himself. Though he doesn't talk to her, Sarah thinks she understands why Andy spins things so much.