

INSPIRING AND EDUCATING STORY BOOKS ABOUT DOWN SYNDROME AND CELEBRATING THE ACCEPTANCE OF DIFFERENCES

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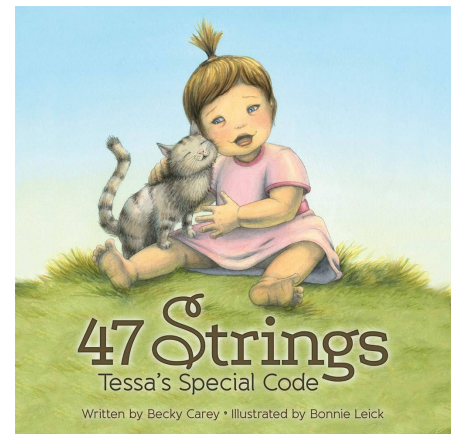
If you are looking for a way to introduce and educate about Down syndrome and celebrate the acceptance of differences in a day care centre, kindy or school setting, maybe with family and friends, there are some really great books that inform and encourage kindness, patience, inclusion and acceptance.

Please note that some books were written and published in other countries where certain terminology may be used differently to what is used in Australia.

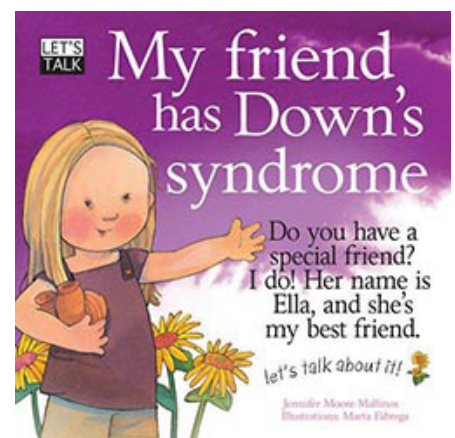


BOOKS ABOUT DOWN SYNDROME

A great book is **'47 Strings Tessa's Special Code'** written by Becky Carey. The author has written this book as a love letter to her son about her real-life daughter, Tessa, who has Down syndrome. It is a beautiful story that explains in a simple and sensitive manner how Tessa's 'special code' makes her different in some ways but also how Tessa and her brother are the same in so many other ways. Additional information about Down syndrome can also be found at the back of the book.



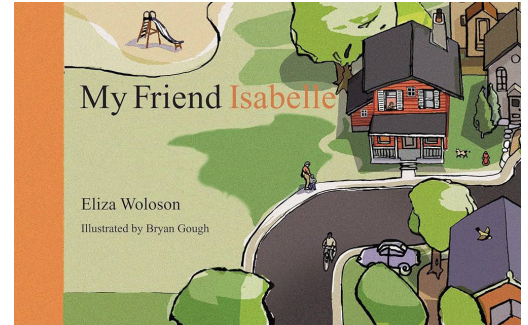
'My friend has Down's syndrome' by Jennifer Moore-Mallinos is a beautiful introduction to Down syndrome. It is about two girls at a summer camp who became best friends, one of the girls; Ella, has Down syndrome. This book sensitively explores the other children's hesitation about Ella being there because they don't understand what Down syndrome is. It explains what Down syndrome is in a very child-friendly way through its storyline. The children soon learn that all children have their own strengths and weaknesses, and this is what makes us unique. There is information about Down syndrome for adults at the back of the book.



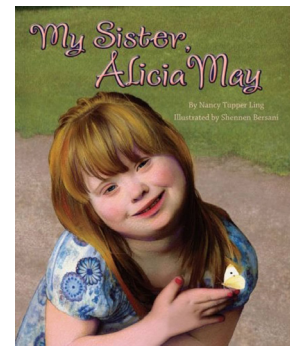
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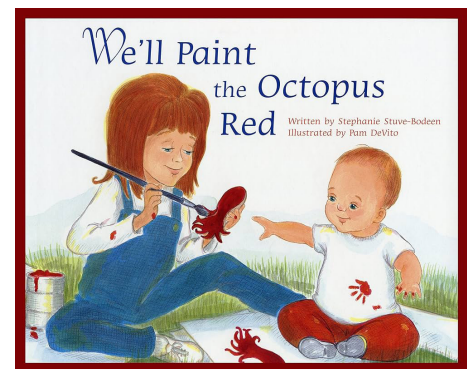
‘My Friend Isabelle’ by Eliza Woloson is a sweet book about a friendship between a little boy named Charlie and a little girl named Isabelle who has Down syndrome. It is a positive, bright book with very cute illustrations. It explains what the two children have in common and how they are different is what makes their friendship so special.



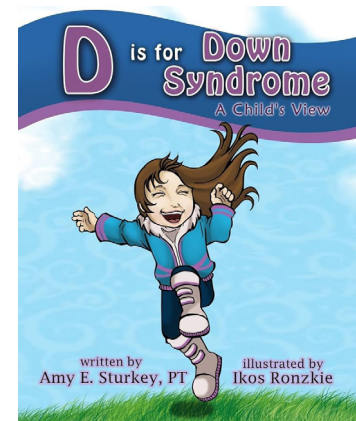
Another great book is **‘My Sister, Alicia May’** by Nancy Tupper Ling. It is a beautiful and realistic presentation of the love between two sisters. The story is narrated by Alicia’s big sister, explaining how her sister, who has Down syndrome, is different but those differences are what make her special.



Another nice and optimistic book is **‘We’ll Paint the Octopus Red’** by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen. It tells the story of Emma who is excited about the arrival of her new brother and what they can do together. Then she finds out he has Downs syndrome. She worries they won’t be able to do the things she had planned but her Dad explains that, with a little help and patience, they will be able to do everything with the baby. At the back of the book there is also a sensitive and informative question and answer section.



‘D is for Down Syndrome A Child’s View’ by Amy E. Sturkey uses a simple ABC format to educate about Down syndrome in a fun and entertaining way. Each page has bright beautiful illustrations and contains a theme that starts with a letter of the alphabet. It is narrated by a 6 year old girl with Down syndrome in child-friendly and easy to understand language. It teaches from a child’s perspective the traits and challenges that children with Down syndrome share. Then it offers an optimistic and encouraging ways of meeting each challenge.

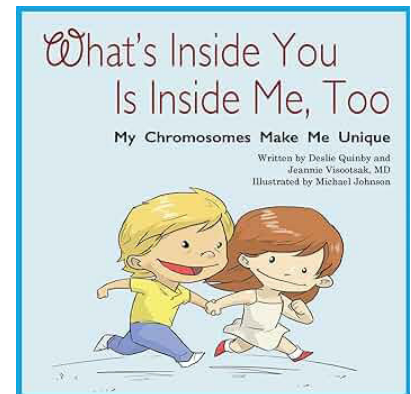


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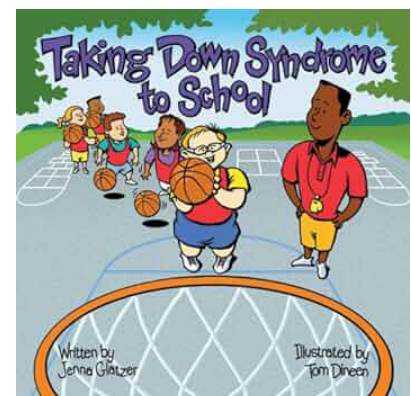
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‘What’s Inside You Is Inside Me. Too My Chromosomes Make Me Unique’

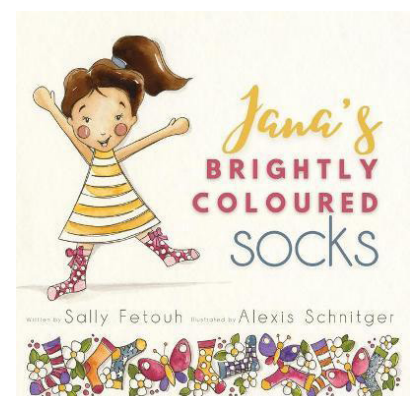
by Deslie Quinby and Jeannie Visootsak simply explains Down syndrome using a fun poetic approach aided by informative and colourful illustrations. It explains the complicated concept of chromosomes and their role in making every living thing special in very simple language in an appropriate way for children to easily understand. There is also in-depth information about Down syndrome for adults at the back of the book.



‘Taking Down Syndrome to School’ by Jenna Glatzer is a great book to share with older children when trying to explain what Down syndrome is and how it affects children born with it. It is told from the perspective of Nick, who is a young boy with Down syndrome. Nick shares with us that although he is different, he still has the same wants and needs that other children have. This book does bring up the topic of the offensive use of the word ‘retard’ in relation to Down syndrome. At the back of the book it has a Down syndrome kid’s quiz and also some great ideas for teachers.



‘Jana’s Brightly Coloured Socks’ by Sally Fetouh tells the story of Jana, a little girl with Down syndrome. Jana receives lots of brightly coloured socks due to her learning the skill of being able to put her own socks on. The story then beautifully explores the journey of what true friendship and inclusion means, plus also the value of kindness when Jana shows all her new socks to everyone at school. The significance of the use of socks is a reference to the extra chromosomes in Down syndrome because chromosomes are shaped like socks.

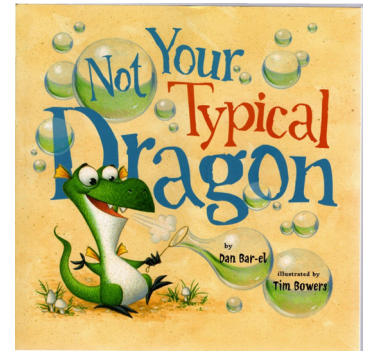


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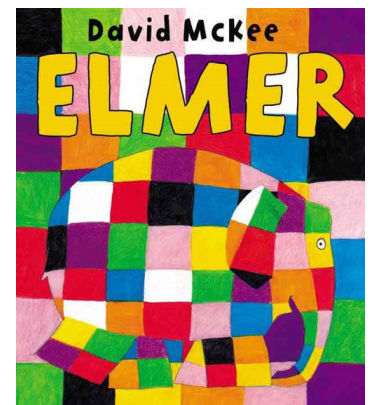


BOOKS ABOUT CELEBRATING THE ACCEPTANCE OF DIFFERENCES

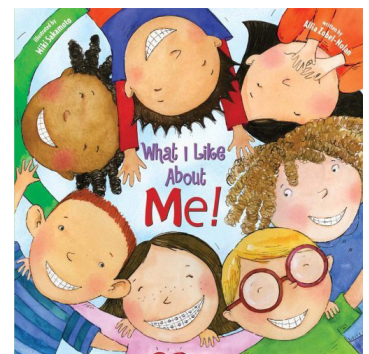
‘Not Your Typical Dragon’ by Dan Bar-el is a book that has a very cute storyline about a dragon named Crispin who cannot breathe fire. On his 7th birthday he was looking forward to being able to breath fire just like the rest of his family but soon realises that he instead breaths out unexpected objects like whipped cream, bubbles and band aids. Crispin struggles that he is different from the other dragons until his not so typical abilities saves the day. The story shares a warm message of acceptance and embracing the differences in yourself and in others.



‘Elmer’ by David McKee is about an elephant who instead of being grey all over is a bright patchwork of colours. Elmer worries that he is too different and goes to great lengths to try to fit in with the rest of the herd by disguising himself. He soon discovers that it is actually his differences that make him and the other elephants feel happy. This book encourages the reader to celebrate differences and reminds us that by accepting our special gifts and talents we can bring so much joy and happiness to the people around us and to ourselves.



‘What I Like About Me!’ by Allia Zobel is a fantastic book about children who embrace and love their differences. Each character gets to describe what they like about themselves, demonstrating how they are different from each other. This book celebrates that being different is what makes us special.



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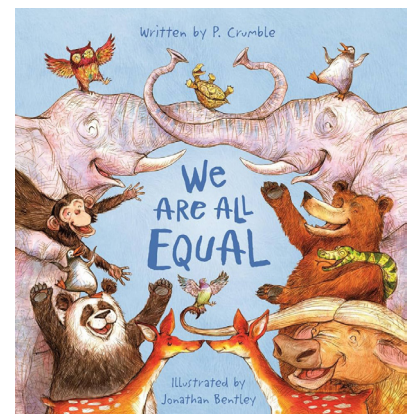
'It's Okay to Be Different' by Todd Parr is a bright, colourful and cheerful book. It talks about how we are all different and that is okay. Be proud of those differences because they are what make you who you are.



'Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You' by Sonia Sotomayor is about a young girl named Sonia who is planting a community garden with a variety of plants with the help of lots of kids who all have different abilities and superpowers. Each character explains what their superpower is and the ways they deal with it. They then ask the reader a relatable question about themselves. This book encourages the reader if you see someone different, you don't know why, then just ask.



'We Are All Equal' by P. Crumble uses a variety of animals to demonstrate that we are not all the same, but we are all equal at the same time. It uses simple rhymes and gorgeous, colourful, and emotional illustrations to help spread its message about equality.



All these books can be purchased from online stores such as Amazon, Booktopia or Book Depository or check out the DSQ Library.