# Children and Disabilities

**Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library**  
**A Selective Annotated Bibliography**

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<tr>
<th>Lexile Score</th>
<th>Title Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BIG BOOKS</strong></td>
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<td>Russ, a five-year-old with Down syndrome, visits his uncle's firehouse and gets to help with the daily chores.</td>
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<td><strong>EASY</strong></td>
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<td>Zulay is a blind girl who longs to be able to run in the race on field and track day at her school.</td>
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<td>Oliver Octopus, who was born with five arms instead of eight, has trouble getting hired for a job because he is physically different from what people expect.</td>
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This photographic essay is distinctive in that the special needs of many of the children are portrayed. The genial assembly of youngsters includes several born with Down Syndrome or cerebral palsy, and others affected by less physically obvious disorders. But as the children offer one another pushes on swings and drinks of water from a hose, share toys and ride happily in a variety of vehicles—from wheelchairs to tricycles—what surfaces is how very much they have in common.


When a girl in a wheelchair calls to people far below to look up and see her, one finds a way to brighten her day.


Janine is one of a kind. She focuses on the positive while navigating life with disabilities. She makes a difference just by being herself.


Peter has not told anyone the secret of why he is different from other children, but when a new student joins his class, he wonders if he can tell her.


Jade wants to be friends with the new girl, but Hannah's wheelchair seems to present an obstacle until Jade is reminded that everyone is special in God's eyes.

Elliott, Rebecca. *Just Because*. Oxford: Lion, 2010. (Developmental)

A younger brother describes all the fun he has with the big sister he loves so much just because. He is enthusiastic about just how loving and special she is, and delights in telling us about all the fun things they do together. Only as his tale unfolds does the reader begin to realize that his sister has special needs and by then the reader just accepts, as he does, all the wonderful things about her.

Although Christy considered him a pest, when Eddie Lee, a boy with Down Syndrome, follows her into the woods, he shares several special discoveries with her.


Spend a day with Tommy and Wendy and find out what it’s really like to play and make friends with kids who see in different ways.


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.


The classmates of a new boy at school find that, although he is in a wheelchair, he can do what they do.


A fictionalized biography of Ella Kate Ewing, born in 1872, who was eight feet tall by the age of seventeen and who became financially independent by traveling the country for nearly twenty years appearing at museums, exhibitions, and in circus shows.


Alex joins Little Critter's class at school, but because he's in a wheelchair, nobody knows how to treat him.


Describes how a teacher named Miss Chew encouraged individuality, and accepted learning differences, and helped a young student with academic difficulties get extra time to take tests and permission to be in advanced art classes.

Inspired by a teacher who believes each of them is a genius, a class of special-needs students invents something that could convince the whole school they are justifiably proud to be "Junkyard Wonders."


Oscar, who is blind, teaches Lucy how to read his Braille book.


Caroline sets up a stand to sell her Grandmother’s sweet lemonade to raise money for the new wheelchair her friend Shannon needs, which inspires others to help, as well, in bigger and better ways. Includes tips for encouraging children to be philanthropic.


Lee, a jazz pianist, has to leave his band when he begins losing his hearing, but he meets a deaf saxophone player in a sign language class and together they form a snazzy new band.

Segré, Chiara Valentina. *Lola and I*. Markham, ON: Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2015. (Physical)

A story about the special friendship between a young girl and her dog, featuring a surprise ending.


When Sophia’s helper is absent, her fellow third-graders help out by learning how to push her wheelchair.

**FICTION**


Rip and Red find that fifth grade continues to challenge them in brand-new ways and discover that sometimes radical change is nothing to be afraid of.

Mean girl Nikki Baylor, accused of a cyberbullying incident that nearly resulted in a classmate's suicide, is expelled from school, abandoned by her friends, and distrusted by her parents but she gets a second chance after meeting Pax, a spirited wheelchair rugby player.


Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.


Adonis is smart, intellectually gifted and born without legs; Autumn is strong, a great wrestler, and barely able to read in ninth grade--but Autumn is attracted to Adonis and determined to make him a part of her life whatever he or her best friend thinks.


Graduating from their school's special education program, Quincy and Biddy are placed together in their first independent apartment and discover unexpected things they have in common in the face of past challenges and a harrowing trauma.


When an impulsive carjacking turns into a kidnapping, Griffin, a high school dropout, finds himself more in sympathy with his wealthy, blind victim, sixteen-year-old Cheyenne, than with his greedy father.


A London teenager who is blind and her younger brother travel to New York to find their missing father, using clues from his notebook.


Scorned in her Flatlands village because of a deformed foot, Emmeline Thistle's life changes when she is taken in by Wanderlands dairy farmers and discovers
her magical ability to make chocolate, which is more precious and rare than gold or jewels in the kingdom of Anglund.


When a school bus accident leaves sixteen-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb and her track team finds a wonderful way to help rekindle her dream of running again.


In India, a girl who excels at Bharatanatyam dance refuses to give up after losing a leg in an accident.

**NONFICTION**


This title traces the history of the disability rights movement in the United States, including the key players, watershed moments, and legislative battles that have driven social change. Iconic images and informative sidebars accompany compelling text that follows the movement from the work of early activists to bring dignity to the lives of people in institutions through the fight to make society adapt to the needs of people with disabilities and up to new legislative triumphs in the late twentieth and early twenty-first century.


Learn the different ways someone can help a child with a disability.


Provides source quotes, facts and statistics on issues related to learning disabilities.


A story of a girl who has a disability called dyslexia is accompanied by information about topics related to dyslexia.
| N/A  | Canales, Lindsay. *Physical Activities for Young People with Severe Disabilities*. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics, 2011. | 371.91 | C16091P |

Last Updated Nov-17 ES