



Children's Books for Special Needs

Disability



Barnardos

EVERY CHILDHOOD LASTS A LIFETIME

Children's Books for Special Needs

Introduction

As children grow up, they may encounter situations that can pose problems for them. Fingal County Libraries, in association with Barnardos, have compiled a series of eight booklists which can help explain some of these situations. They include:

- Adoption & Fostering
- Bullying
- Death & Bereavement
- Disability
- Family Life
- First Experiences
- Growing Up (emotional and physical) and
- Health

Books can be very valuable in helping children begin to understand problems and fears. Furthermore, books can enable them to express themselves and provide the comfort of knowing that they're not alone, as well as supplying suggestions for ways of resolving the problem. The book should however, be followed up with the child to ensure s/he gets the most from it.

These lists are not intended to be comprehensive, but rather are selective guides to the best of children's books published on these topics in recent years. All of the titles listed are currently in print and should be available in public libraries and bookshops. The age ranges indicated are approximate. We hope you find them useful.

Aideen Griffin

Librarian

Fingal County Libraries

Kate and Laura are sisters; Kate is 12 years, Laura is 10 years. They get on well together, and enjoy doing things together – listening to music, going shopping for clothes with Mum, trips to McDonalds and the cinema. But Kate sometimes feels left out – she cannot always go on these trips. Kate has Cerebral Palsy and needs to use a wheelchair to get around – she cannot walk. If they need to take a bus trip, Kate has to stay at home with Dad. The buses don't have ramps to accommodate her wheelchair so she cannot go on a bus. Kate can only go to certain shops, cinemas and other buildings because not everywhere is wheelchair accessible. Everyone feels sad about this. It doesn't seem fair.

Laura sometimes feels bad for Kate. She hears other children make fun of people with special needs and never knows what to say. She has talked to her Mum about this. Mum has told Laura that children do this sometimes because they don't know any better. They probably feel awkward because they have not been around people with disabilities. They may feel nervous or afraid and don't know how to act. They might think that making someone else feel bad will help them to feel better. People who tease are only looking at how the person with a disability is on the outside. They don't know them and don't realise that they have the same feelings as everyone else.

Laura knows this because she knows Kate, she realises that although Kate uses a wheelchair, she is still like everyone else and deserves the same respect. Others need to learn this. In our society, people with disabilities are still excluded and discriminated against. There are many reasons for this. We live in an unequal society and the less powerful are oppressed by more dominant groups. Historically, people's attitude towards the disabled has been one of pity and charity; disabled people have been segregated and excluded. By marginalising disabled people, they are denied the possibility of realising their full potential. Indeed it is often not their disability that prevents them from participating in society to the full, but the injustice and attitudes of others.

Today, in more enlightened times, things are changing but we still have a responsibility to highlight discrimination and endeavour to change society's attitude. We can start by educating our children.

Patricia McDonnell

Project Worker

Barnardos

Charlie's Eye

Dorothy Horgan

Hamilton 0241136814 h/b 1997, Puffin 0140382372 p/b 1998 Ages 8-11

Charlie is a mischievous girl with a glass eye who is always using it to play tricks. Then a new boy in school calls her 'handicapped' and she sets out to prove him wrong.

The Crowstarver

Dick King-Smith

Doubleday 0385410085 h/b 1998, Corgi 0552546038 p/b 1999 11-13

A moving story about Spider Sparrow, a special boy who was abandoned at birth and brought up by a shepherd and his wife. Although he's a slow learner and has a limited vocabulary, he has a natural affinity with animals.

A Different Life

Lois Keith

Women's Press 0704349469 p/b 1997 Ages 14+

Fifteen-year-old Libby becomes ill with a virus which paralyses her legs. She gradually has to come to terms with her new life using a wheelchair.

Face

Benjamin Zephaniah

Bloomsbury 074754154X p/b 1999 Ages 12-15

Fifteen-year-old Martin is good-looking and popular with his friends in school. After a car accident which leaves his face badly burnt, he is treated differently by everyone including his so-called friends.

How to Write Really Badly

Anne Fine

Mammoth 0749720239 p/b 1996 Ages 8-10

When the new boy in school is placed sitting next to the 'writer from hell', he decides to help him overcome some of his writing problems. A humorous story which offers insight into learning difficulties.

I'm Special

Jen Green

Illustrated by Mike Gordon

Wayland 'Your Feelings' Series 075022357X h/b 1999, 0750225750 p/b 2000 Ages 4-7

A book which focuses on the feelings of children and adults with disabilities. Contains notes for parents and teachers.

The Listener

Elizabeth Laird

A & C Black 'Graffix' Series 0713647094 p/b 1997 Ages 8-12

When Gavin goes to visit his gran, he discovers that she is missing. He meets a deaf girl who helps him find her.

Living With Down's Syndrome

Jenny Bryan

Wayland 0750222484 h/b 1998, 0750228393 p/b 2000 Ages 8-11

A positive, informative look at the lives of people with Down's Syndrome.

Lucy's Picture

Nicola Moon

Illustrated by Alex Ayliffe

Orchard 1852136014 h/b 1994, 1852139552 p/b 1995 Ages 4-7

Lucy is very excited – her grandfather is coming to visit. In school, she makes a special picture which he can feel with his fingers, because he is blind.

Me and My Electric

Elizabeth Laird (Editor)

Mammoth 0749729228 p/b 1998 Ages 9-12

A short story collection written by eight children with disabilities about their lives.

Monkey

Veronica Bennett

Walker 0744541913 h/b, 0744560454 p/b 1998 Ages 12-14

Teenager Harry feels that his life is a mess. Then to make matters worse, his mother asks him to spend some time with Simon, a severely disabled patient of hers. However, Simon and Harry find that they share an interest in drama.

Moving the Goalposts

Rob Childs

A & C Black 'Graffix' Series 0713646187 h/b, 0713649038 p/b 1998 Ages 9-12

Sam is a great goalkeeper, but when he's asked to write a report on a match for school assembly, he's terrified because he is dyslexic.

My Brother is Different

Louise Gorrod

National Autistic Society 1899280502 p/b 1997 Ages 5-8

An older sister explains how her brother is different and how she helps him, especially by loving him.

My Brother Sammy

Becky Edwards

Illustrated by David Armitage

Bloomsbury 0747539960 h/b 1999, 0747546541 p/b 2000 Ages 4-8

Sammy's brother is autistic and he often wishes that Sammy were more like other people. A picture book which is particularly suitable for children with an autistic sibling.

Pest Friends

Pippa Goodhart

Mammoth 0749727500 p/b 1997 Ages 7-9

A story about two best friends. Minnie is small, quiet and shy; Maxine is big, loud, funny and uses a wheelchair.

Red Sky in the Morning

Elizabeth Laird

Red Fox 0330308904 p/b 1998 Ages 12-15

Twelve-year-old Anna's baby brother is born profoundly disabled, but she adores him and loves to teach him new things. But how will her friends react when they find out about his disability and can her family cope?

Someone Like Me

Elaine Forrestal

Puffin 0140386440 p/b 1997 9-12

Tas is a gifted musician who happens to be blind. He is always getting into trouble.

Think About Being Blind

Peter White

Belitha 185561796X h/b 1998 Ages 9-13

The author, who is blind, invites the reader to 'think about' what it's like to be blind. He explains what blindness is, how it is caused and how blind people cope with everyday life.

Think About Being Deaf

Maggie Woolley

Belitha 1855617978 h/b 1998 Ages 9-13

Written by a woman who is deaf, this book looks at deafness, its causes, treatment and the everyday life of people who are deaf.

Think About Being in a Wheelchair

Lois Keith

Belitha 1855618060 h/b 1998 Ages 9-13

A positive look at life for wheelchair users which explains why some people can't walk and how they cope at home, work, school and play.

Topsy and Tim Make a New Friend

Jean and Gareth Adamson

Ladybird 0721428436 p/b 1998 Ages 3-7

A story about Jenny, a little girl in a wheelchair who joins the same class as Topsy and Tim.

We Can Do It!

Laura Dwight

Star Bright 1887734341 h/b 1997 Ages 5-8

A photographic book containing positive images of young children with disabilities including cerebral palsy, blindness, spina bifida and Down's Syndrome.

What Do We Think About Disability?

Jillian Powell

Wayland 0750222093 h/b 1998 Ages 6-9

An introduction to disability, answering many of the questions that children ask.

When It's Hard to Hear 0749629843

When It's Hard to See 0749629975

When It's Hard to Move 0749630876

Judith Condon

Watts h/b 1998 Ages 8-11

A series designed to give children an understanding of disabilities. Included are chapters in which people talk about their everyday lives.

When Stars Stop Spinning

Jane Mitchell

Poolbeg 1853713201 p/b 1993, 1853718394 p/b 1998 Ages 12-15

Following a joyriding accident, Tony is sent to a rehab centre to recover from head injuries. There he makes friends with Stephen who is suffering from a debilitating wasting disease.

Useful Addresses

Aspire

c/o Rossgarragh
New Road
Greystones, Co. Wicklow
Tel: (01) 2871122

Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities (ACLD)

Suffolk Chambers
1 Suffolk Street, Dublin 2
Tel: (01) 6790276 Fax: (01) 6790273

Association of Parents and Friends of Mentally Handicapped Children

St. Michael's House
Head Office
Ballymun Road, Dublin 9
Tel: (01) 8840200

Central Remedial Clinic (CRC)

Penny Ansley Building
Vernon Avenue
Clontarf, Dublin 3
Tel: (01) 8332206 Fax: (01) 8336633
E-mail: tdcrc@crc.ie
Website: www.crc.ie

Cerebral Palsy Ireland

Sandymount Centre
Sandymount Avenue, Dublin 4
Tel: (01) 2695355 Fax: (01) 2964983

Cheshire Foundation in Ireland

46-48 Pembroke Road, Dublin 4
Tel: (01) 6670323 Fax: (01) 6770324
E-mail: cheshfound@iol.ie

Cystic Fibrosis Association of Ireland

24 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin 6
Tel: (01) 4962433 Fax: (01) 4962201
E-mail: cfthouse@internet-ireland.ie

Down's Syndrome Association of Ireland

41 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1
Tel: (01) 8730999/8733199
Fax: (01) 8733612
E-mail: dsi@tinet.ie

Irish Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus

Old Nangor Road
Clondalkin, Dublin 22
Tel: (01) 4572326/9 Fax: (01) 4572328

Irish Deaf Society

Carmichael House
North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7
Tel: (01) 8725748
Fax: (01) 8735737/8725748

Irish Fight for Sight Campaign

4 Parnell Street
Waterford
Tel: (051) 878088 Fax: (051) 878606
E-mail: iffc@indigo.ie

Irish Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust (IHCPT)

7 Northumberland Avenue
Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
Tel: (01) 2803456 Fax: (01) 2803497

Useful Addresses continued

Irish Society for Autism

16 Lower O'Connell Street

Dublin 1

Tel: (01) 8744684 **Fax:** (01) 8744224

E-mail: autism@isa.iol.ie

Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA)

24 Blackheath Drive

Clontarf

Dublin 3

Tel: (01) 8338241 **Fax:** (01) 8333873

E-mail: info@iwa.ie

Website: www.iwa.ie

Let's Face It (Facial disfigurement)

Cookakey

Enniskerry

Co. Wicklow

National Association for the Mentally Handicapped of Ireland (NAMHI)

5 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2

Tel: (01) 6766035 **Fax:** (01) 6760517

E-mail: dcarroll@namhi.iol.ie

National Council for the Blind (NCBI)

PV Doyle House

45 Whitworth Road

Drumcondra, Dublin 9

Tel: (01)8307033 **Fax:** (01) 8307787

E-mail: info@ncbi.ie

Website: www.ncbi.ie

National League of the Blind of Ireland

21 Hill Street, Dublin 1

Tel: (01) 8742792/8745827

Fax: (01) 8787139

National Rehabilitation Board

25 Clyde Road

Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

Tel: (01) 6684181 **Fax:** (01) 6609935

Parent Support/Hearing Impaired Children

The Family Support Team

National Association for Deaf People

35 North Frederick Street, Dublin 1

Tel: (01) 8723800 **Fax:** (01) 8723816

E-mail: nad@iol.ie

Website: www.iol.ie/~nad/

Fighting Blindness

6 Belgrave Place

Off Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1

Tel: (01) 8559330 **Fax:** (01) 8559331

E-mail: info@fightingblindness.ie

Website: www.fightingblindness.ie

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