

# All my Different Friends at School



**Created by Jessica Allabaugh, Jessica Cantillon, Ann Fisher, Carissa Stevens,  
Wendy Strauss & Sybil White**

**Illustrated by Kristen Ball**

# Acknowledgments

This project was truly a labor of love! Without the hard work and commitment of the following people it would not be possible, so thank you to the following:

Wendy Strauss, GACEC Executive Director, for having the dream, never giving up and allowing us to share it with you!

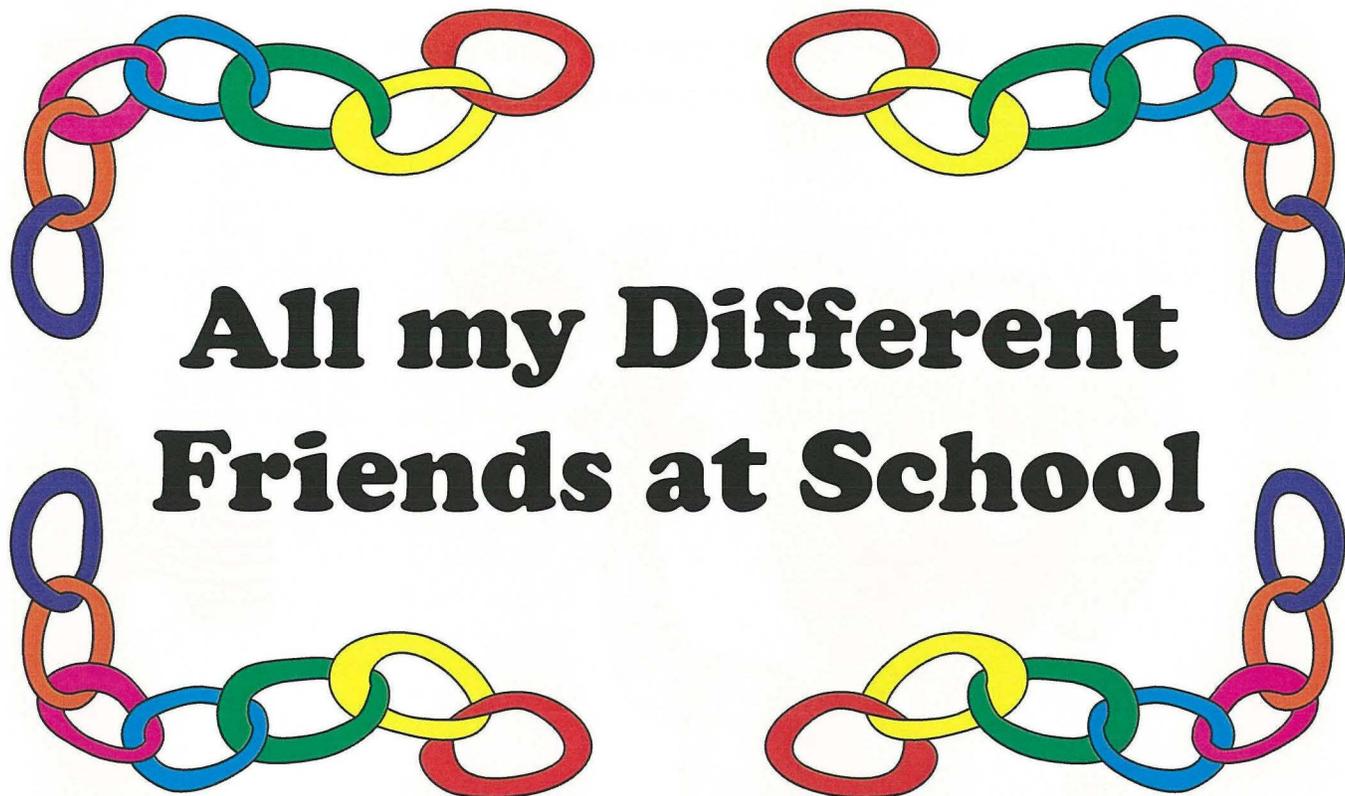
Sybil White, Disability Education & Awareness Program Coordinator, for your hard work and dedication.

A special Thank You to Preschool Teachers Jessica Allabaugh, Jessica Cantillon, Ann Fisher, and Speech Language Pathologist Carissa Stevens, this book was made possible because of your insight, experience, and commitment to learning and the children of the state of Delaware.

Verna Thompson, Delaware Department of Education, Thank You for listening to our ideas and providing positive feedback and the necessary financial support to make this dream a reality.

Justina Monroe and John Rykaczewski from the Delcastle Graphic Arts Program for layout, printing, and binding the book.

And finally to Kristen Ball, POLYTECH High School senior, for all of your beautiful illustrations and to her teacher Robert McMullen, Visual Communications teacher at POLYTECH, for all of your insight, and suggestions and for allowing your wonderful student to share her talents with us.



# **All my Different Friends at School**

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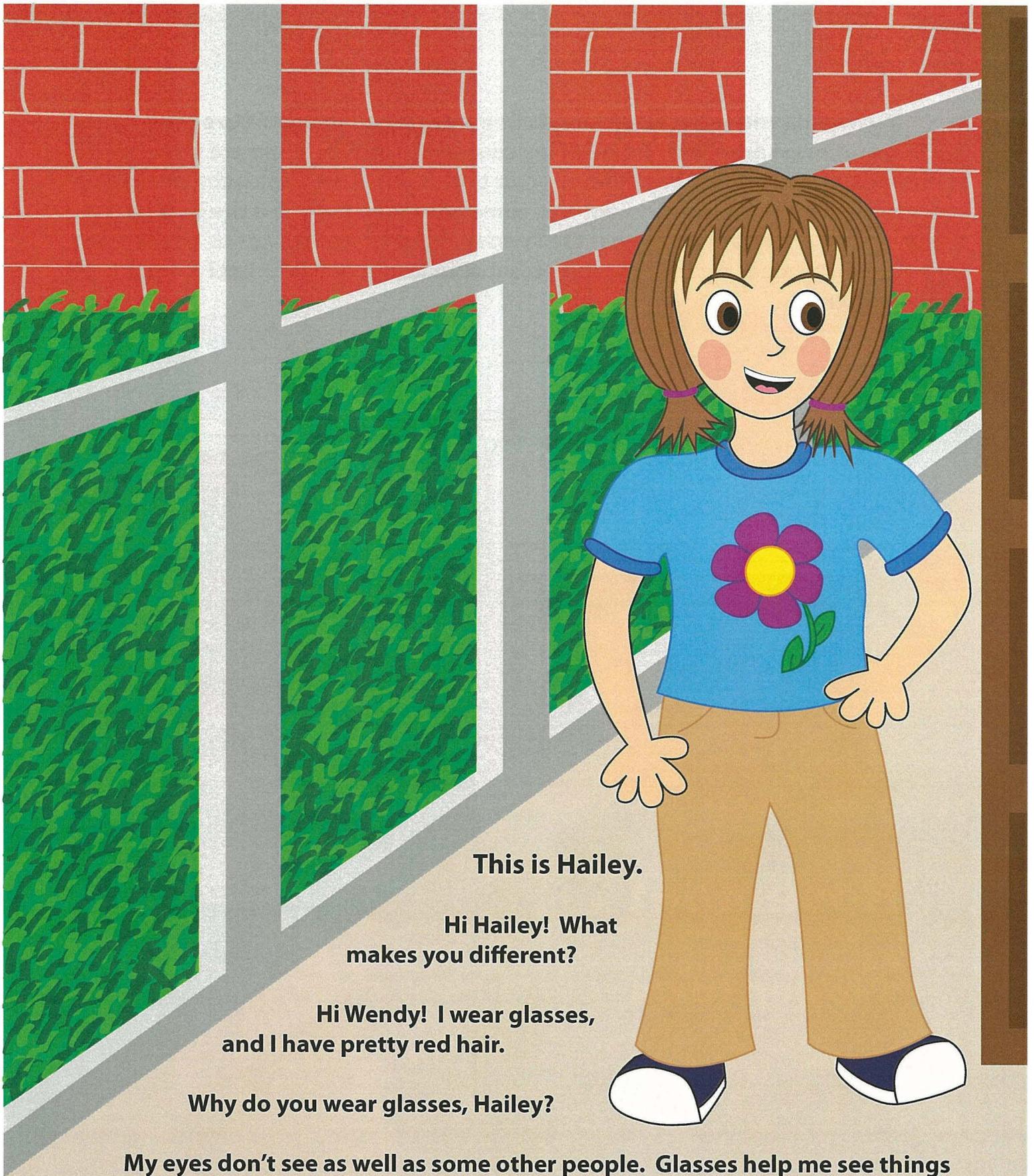
**Illustrated by Kristen Ball**

**Hi! My name is Wendy. I am 4 years old, and I live in Flower Town. I go to school at Rosemont Elementary, and I have lots of friends!**



**My friends and I all look different. Some are boys, and some are girls. Some are tall, and some are short. Some of my friends are brown; some are white; and some are tan. Everybody has different hair too! Some have curly hair; some have straight hair; some have short hair; and some have long hair. But the best part is that we all have something even more special about us that makes us all different. Do you want to meet my friends, and see what makes them different? Great! Let's go meet them!**





**This is Hailey.**

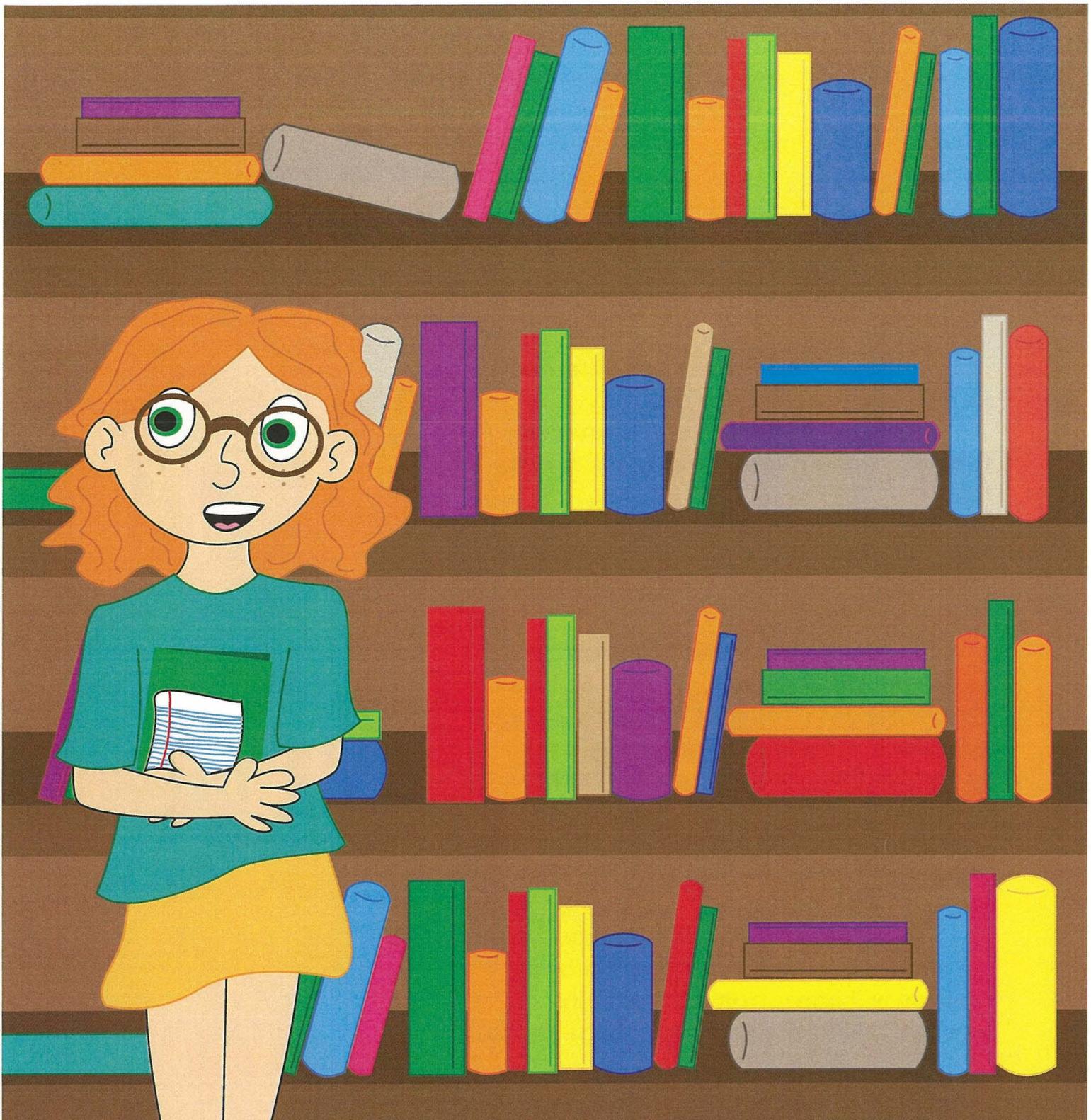
**Hi Hailey! What makes you different?**

**Hi Wendy! I wear glasses, and I have pretty red hair.**

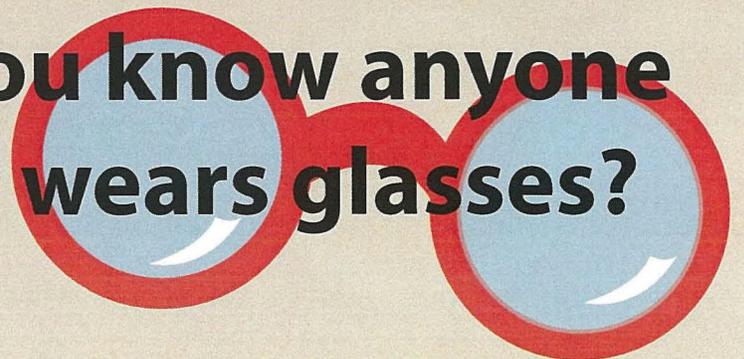
**Why do you wear glasses, Hailey?**

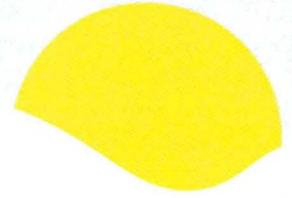
**My eyes don't see as well as some other people. Glasses help me see things better. The part I look through is made of plastic. I have to be real careful not to scratch it.**

**I like your glasses, Hailey, and I'm glad they help you see well. I think your red hair is very nice too.**



**Do you know anyone  
who wears glasses?**





**This is Beau.**

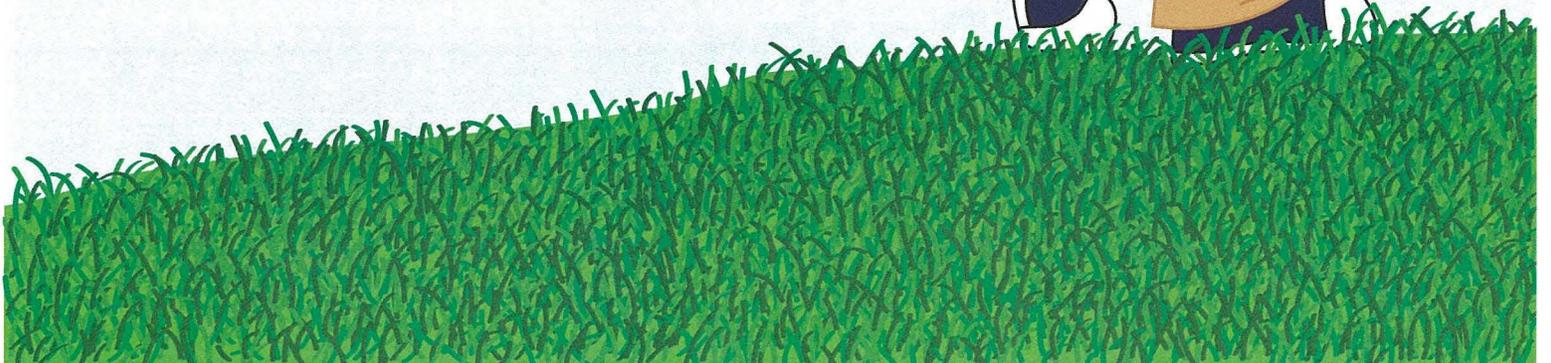
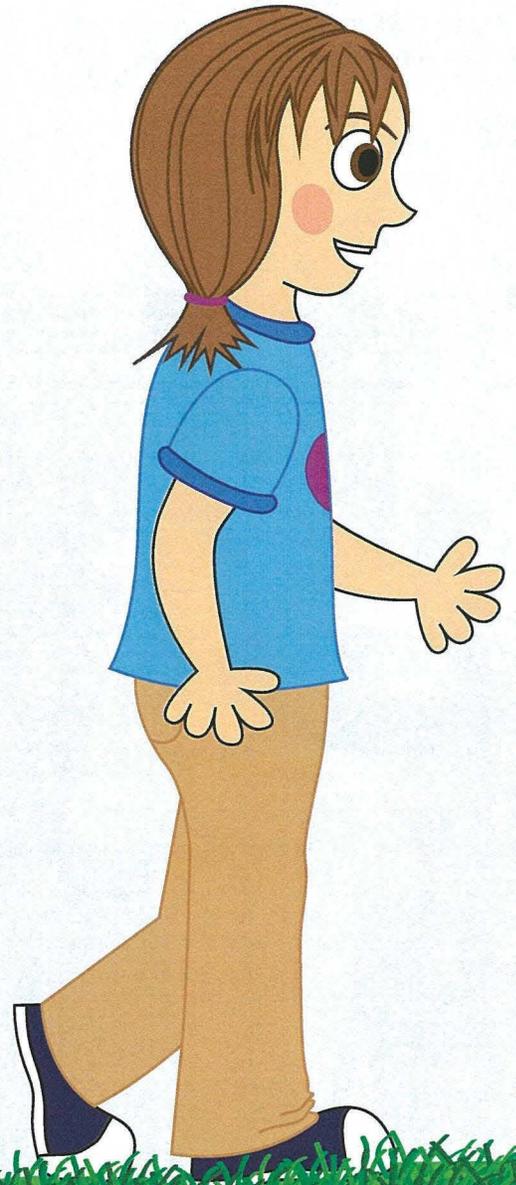
**Hi Beau! What makes you different?**

**Hi Wendy! I eat my food through a tube and I have a special backpack to carry it in.**

**Why do you eat your food through a tube, Beau?**

**I can't swallow food like others do: it makes me choke or even get sick. So I have a tube that goes into my belly, and the nurse pours my food into the special bag in my backpack. The special bag hooks to the tube that's in my belly. The food drips down the tube and fills my belly so that I don't feel hungry and grow big.**

**Wow! Beau, that sounds pretty cool! I'm glad that you get food in your tube so that you will grow strong and get big muscles! I really like your cool backpack too!**



**Do you know anyone who uses  
a tube to get  
food?**



**This is Kyler.**

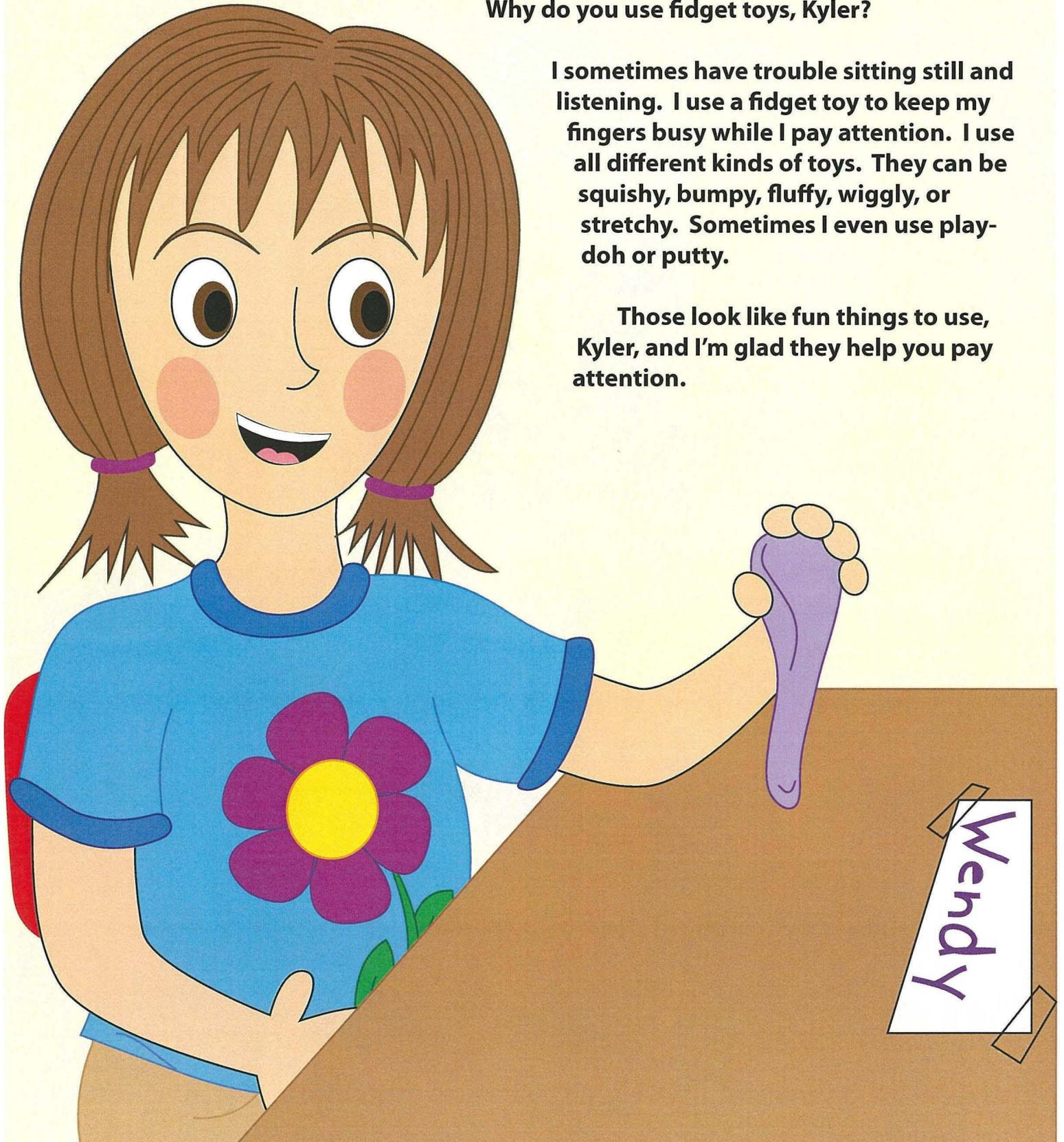
**Hi Kyler! What makes you different?**

**Hi Wendy! I use fidget toys.**

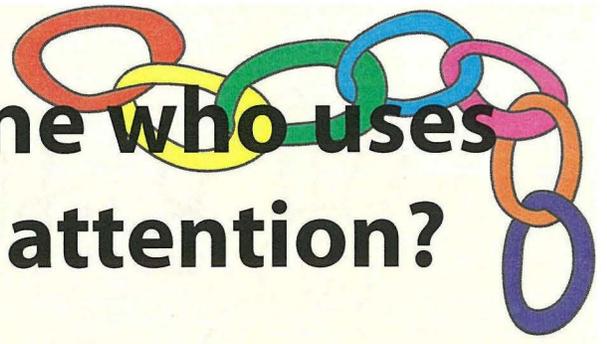
**Why do you use fidget toys, Kyler?**

**I sometimes have trouble sitting still and listening. I use a fidget toy to keep my fingers busy while I pay attention. I use all different kinds of toys. They can be squishy, bumpy, fluffy, wiggly, or stretchy. Sometimes I even use play-doh or putty.**

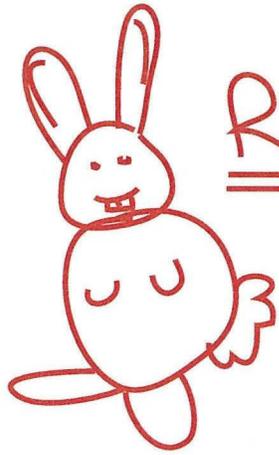
**Those look like fun things to use, Kyler, and I'm glad they help you pay attention.**



Do you know anyone who uses  
fidget toys to pay attention?

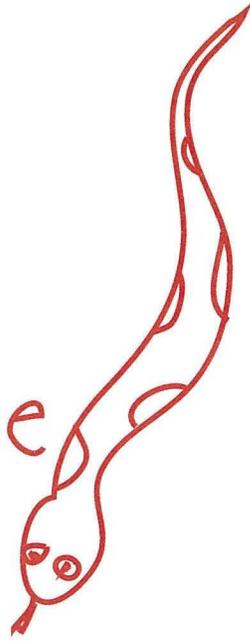


Kyler



Rabbit

Snake



**This is Suzie.**

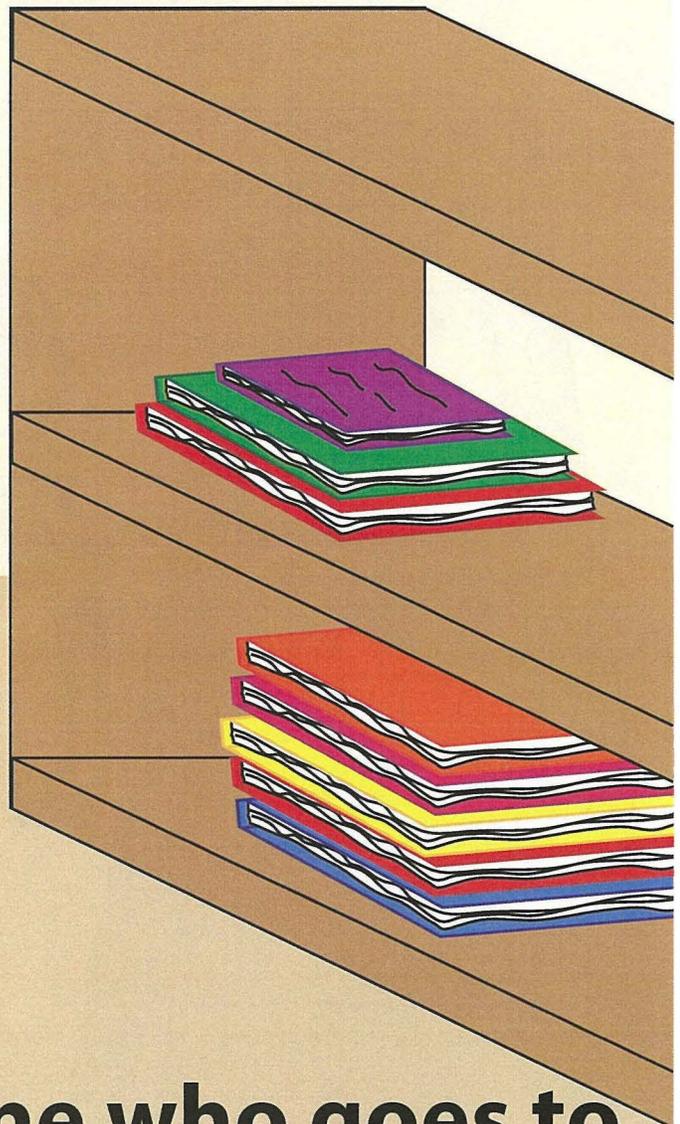
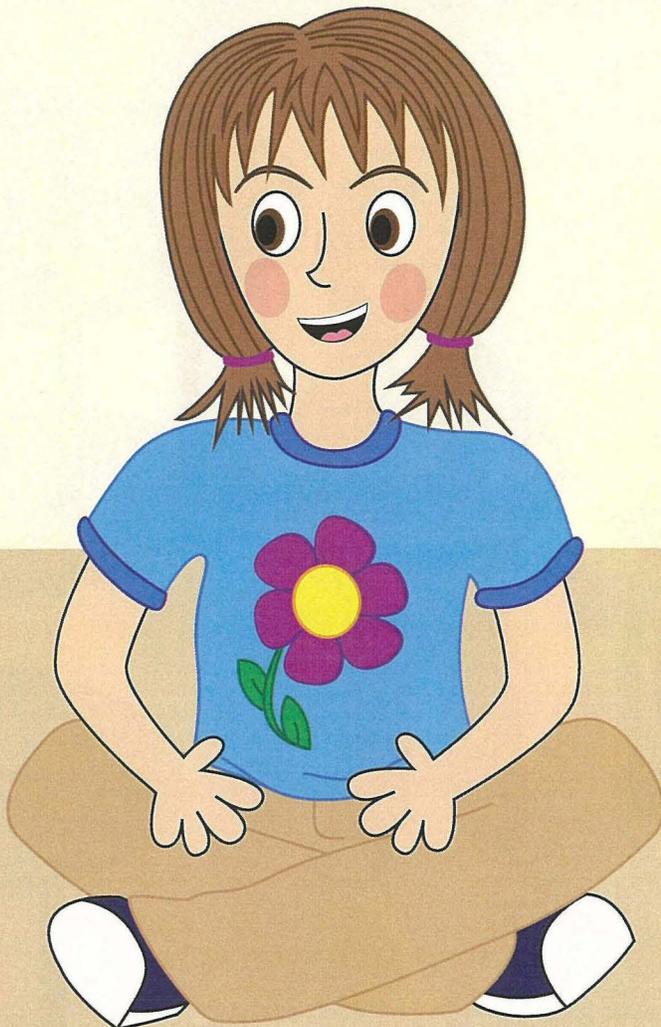
**Hi Suzie! What makes you different?**

**Hi Wendy! I go to *beech clat* and I have really long hair, longer than most of my friends.**

**Why do you go to speech class, Suzie?**

**I have trouble *taying my et tound. Toe tometimes* people don't *undertand* me. I *practit taying "sss",* to make the *tound*. It's fun. If I do good work, *tometime* I get to play a game, and I always get a *ticker*.**

**Speech class sounds like fun, Suzie! I'm glad you can practice your sounds so people will understand you better and your long hair is pretty too!**



**Do you know anyone who goes to  
speech class?**

**This is JJ.**

**Hi JJ! What makes you different?**

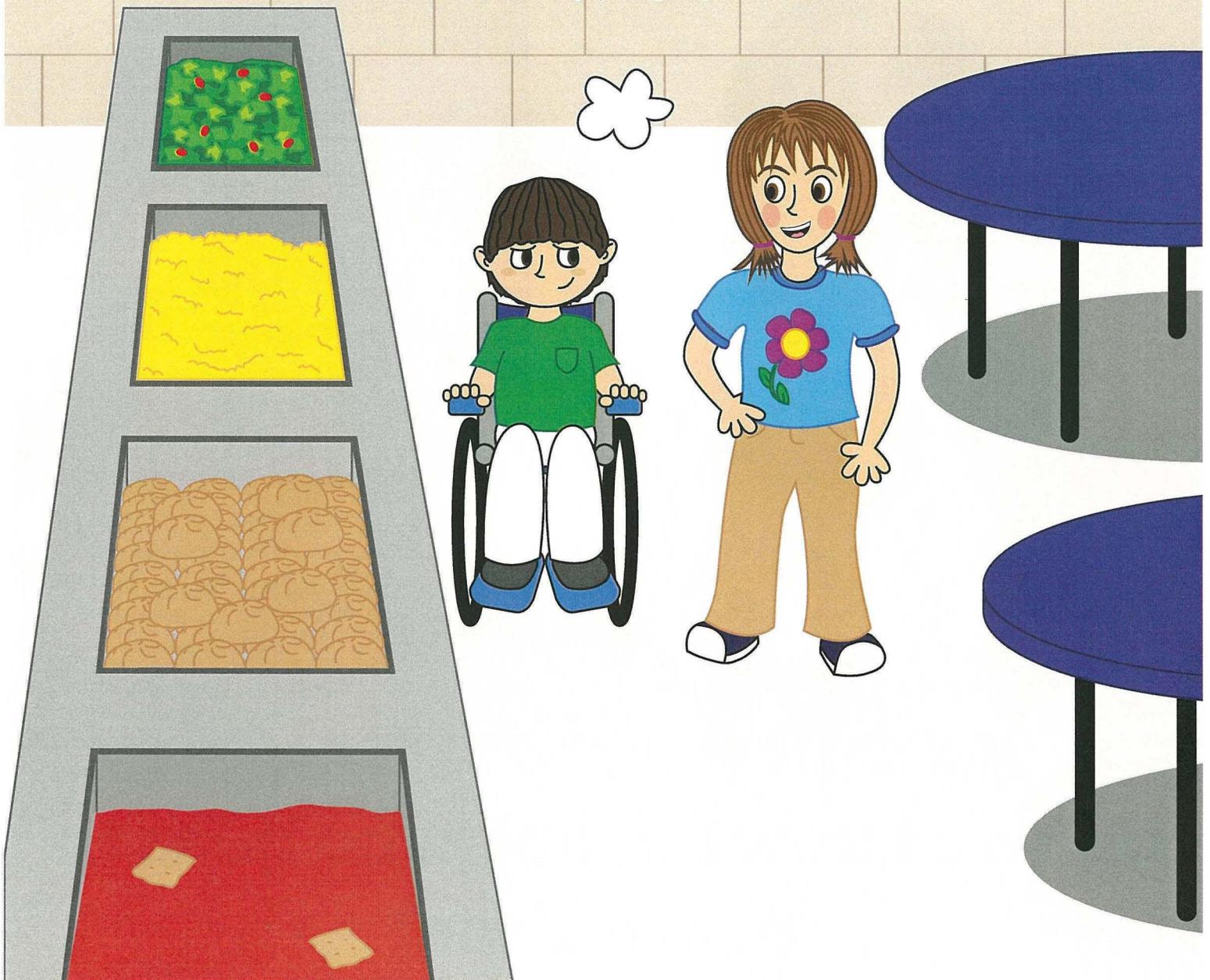
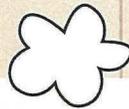
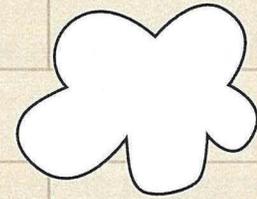
**Hi Wendy! I use a wheelchair.**

**Why do you use a wheelchair, JJ?**

**My muscles don't work like most people's do. I can't walk with my legs; so I sit in a wheelchair, and I use my arms to move the wheels.**

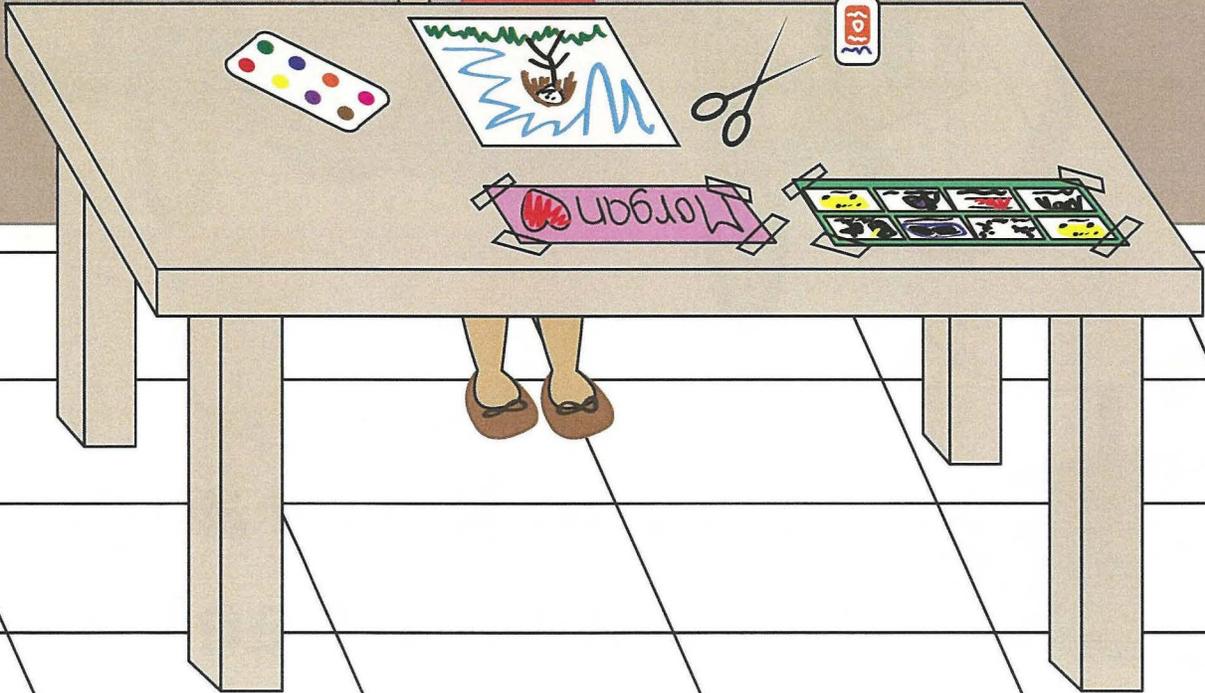
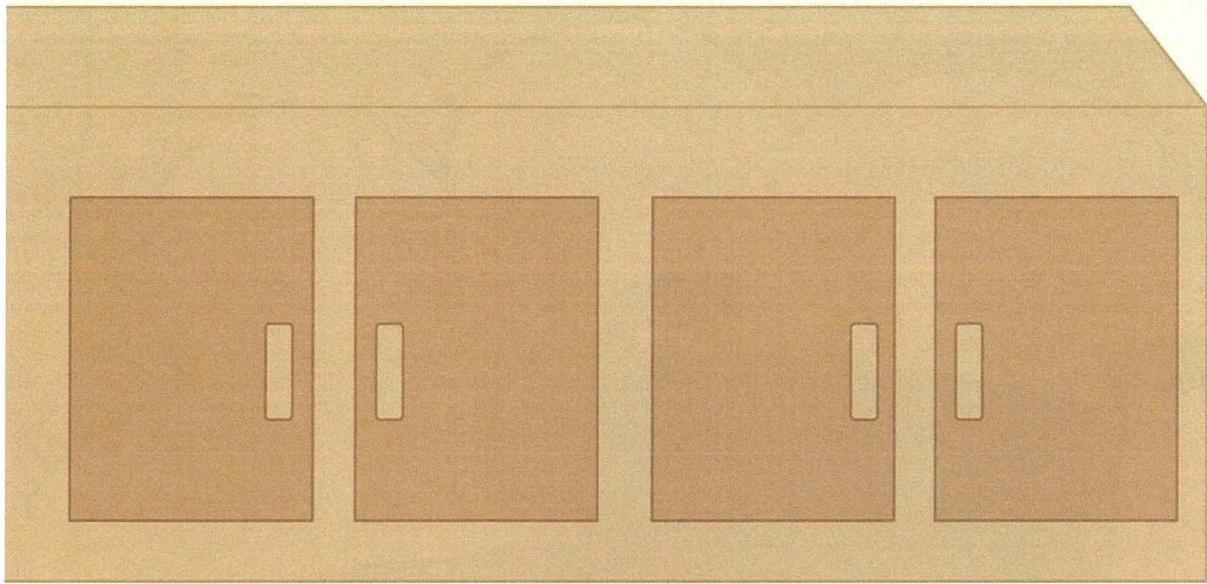
**See... I have a comfortable seat with two places to rest my arms. There are two little wheels and two big wheels. I like to go fast!**

**Wow! That sure is a cool looking wheelchair, JJ! I'm glad that you have a chair that can help you get places.**





**Do you know anyone  
who uses a wheelchair?**



Morgan

This is Morgan.

Hi Morgan! What makes you different?

Hi Wendy! I use a picture schedule.

Why do you use a picture schedule, Morgan?

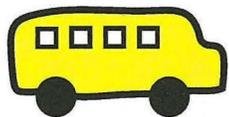
I get really upset when I have to stop one activity and go to a new one. That's called transitioning. When I have to transition sometimes I will cry, hit, or lay down on the floor.

My picture schedule shows me what is happening now and what will happen next. Then I am ready for the change, and I don't get so upset.

I like pictures, Morgan! I'm glad your picture schedule helps you change activities without getting upset.



# Do you know anyone who uses picture schedules?



BUS



MATH



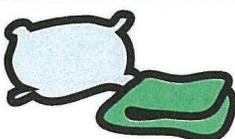
READING



ART



LUNCH



NAP TIME



RECESS



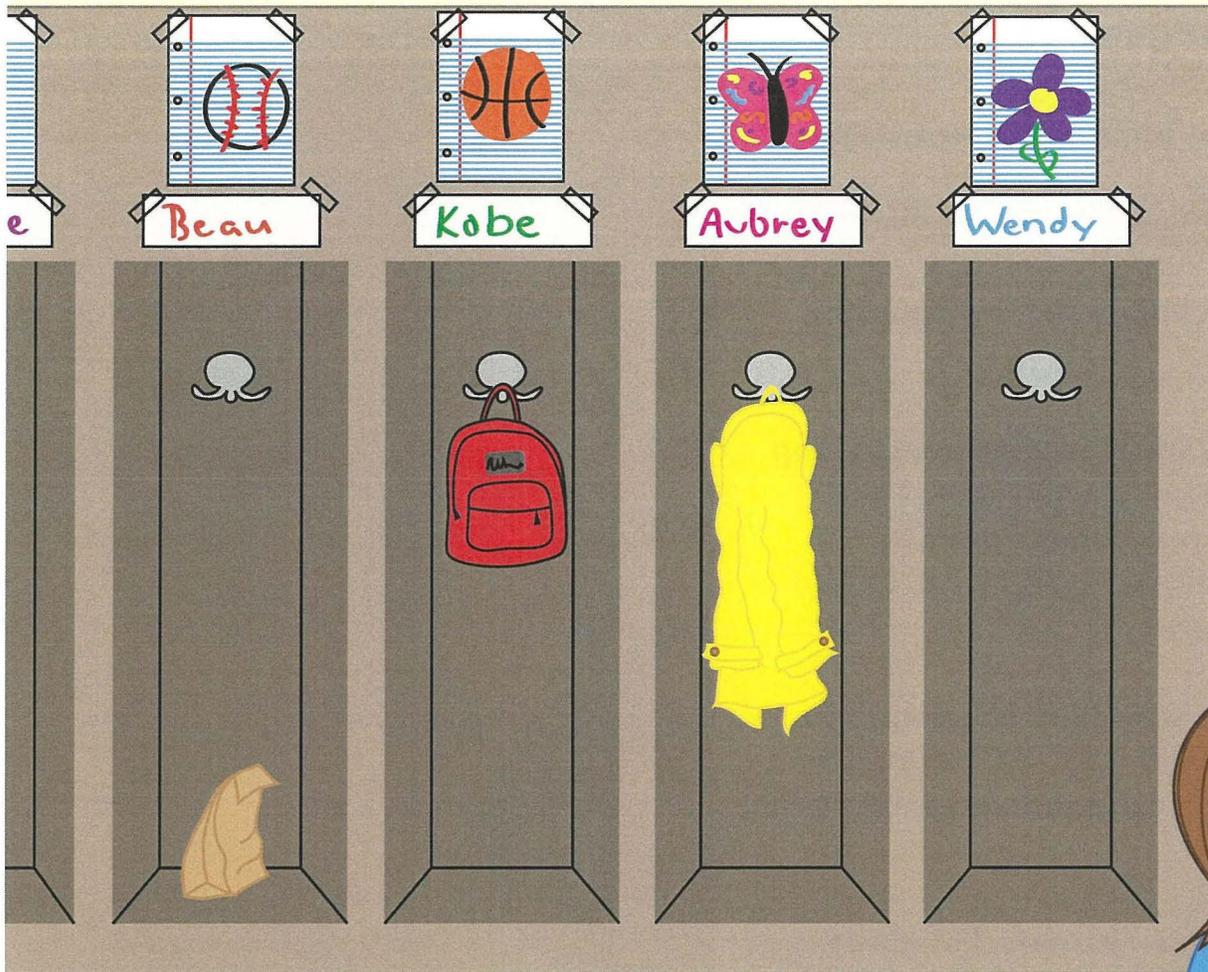
ENGLISH



PACK UP



BUS



**This is Sebastian.**

**Hi Sebastian! What makes you different?**

**Hi Wendy! I go to the nurse two times a day.**

**Why do you go to the nurse, Sebastian?**

**I go to the nurse so she can check my blood sugar level.**

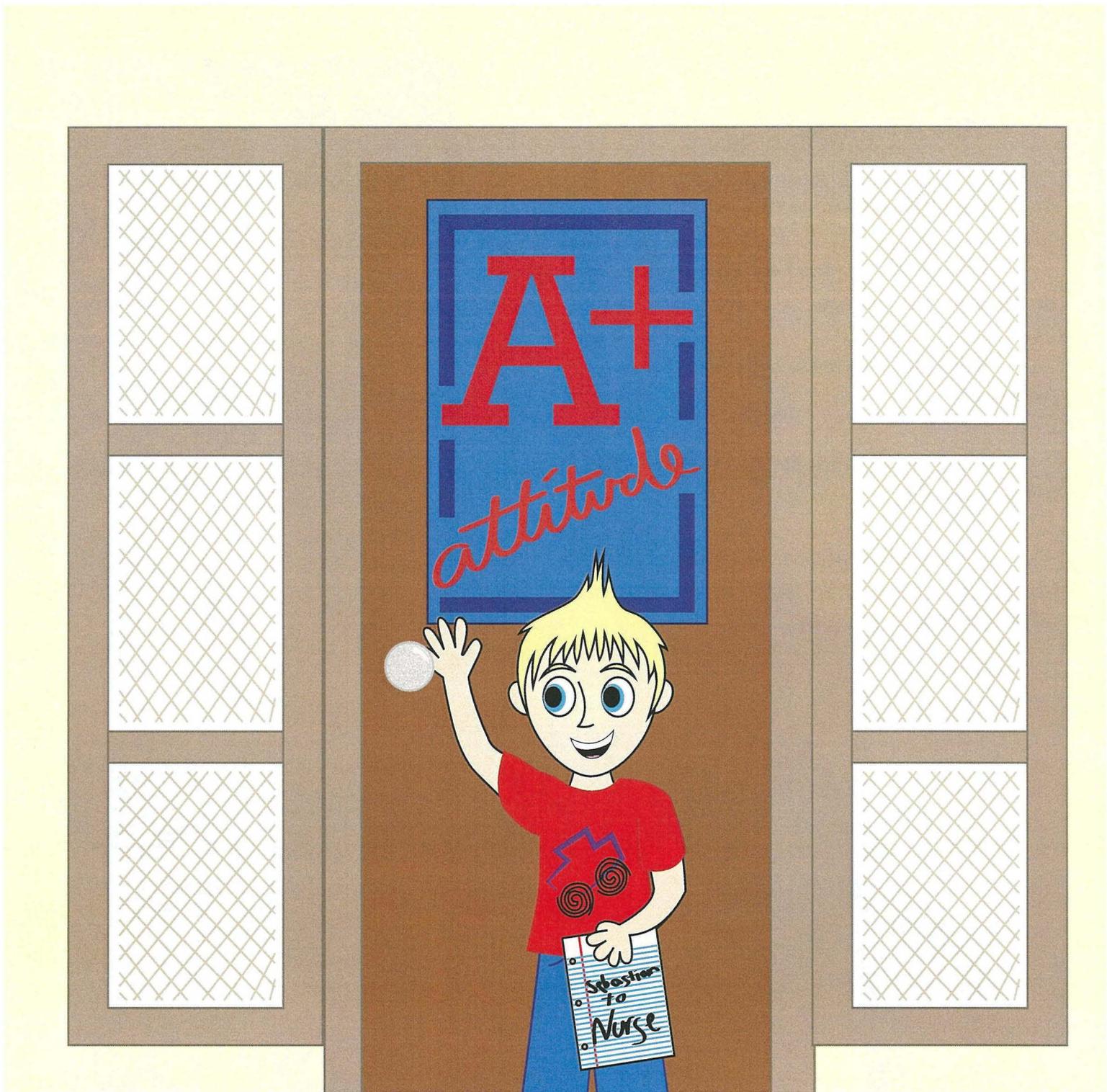
**If my level isn't just right, it makes me feel bad.**

**If my blood level is too high, the nurse gives me medicine.**

**If my blood sugar is too low, I have to eat something so I won't feel bad.**

**I'm glad the nurse can make you feel better, Sebastian, if your blood sugar level isn't just right.**





**Do you know anyone who goes to the nurse to have their blood sugar level checked?**



**This is Aubrey.**

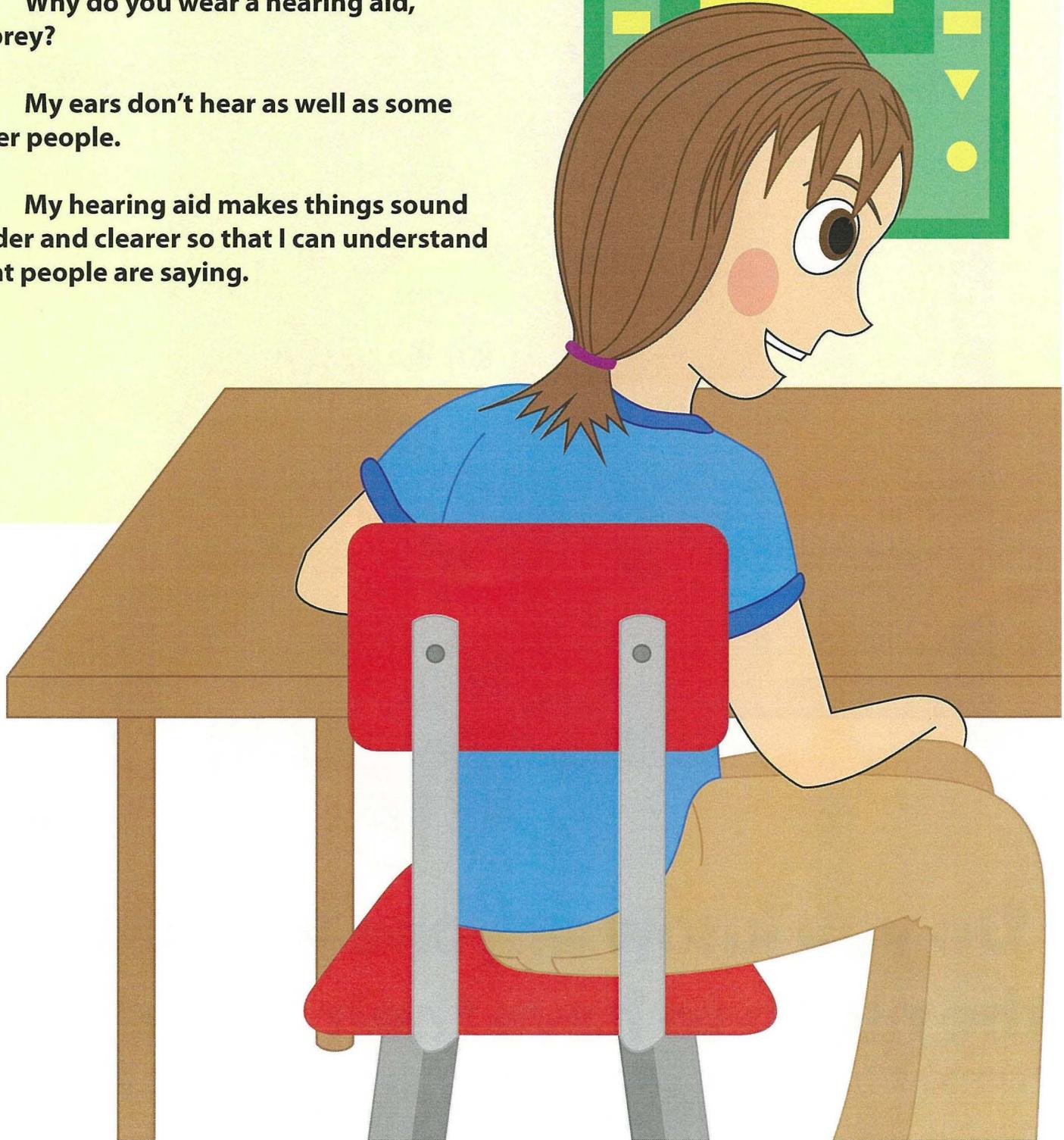
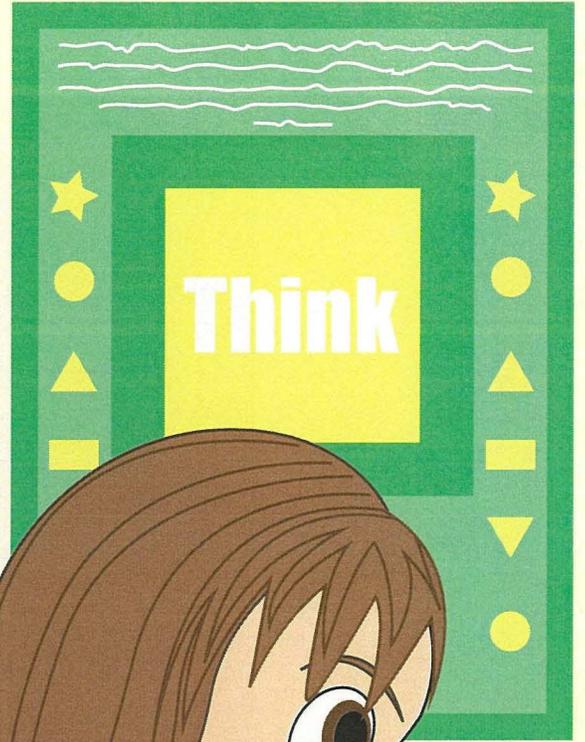
**Hi Aubrey! What makes you different?**

**Hi Wendy! I wear a hearing aid and I know sign language.**

**Why do you wear a hearing aid, Aubrey?**

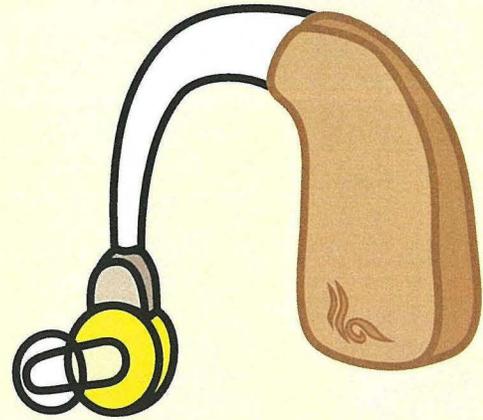
**My ears don't hear as well as some other people.**

**My hearing aid makes things sound louder and clearer so that I can understand what people are saying.**



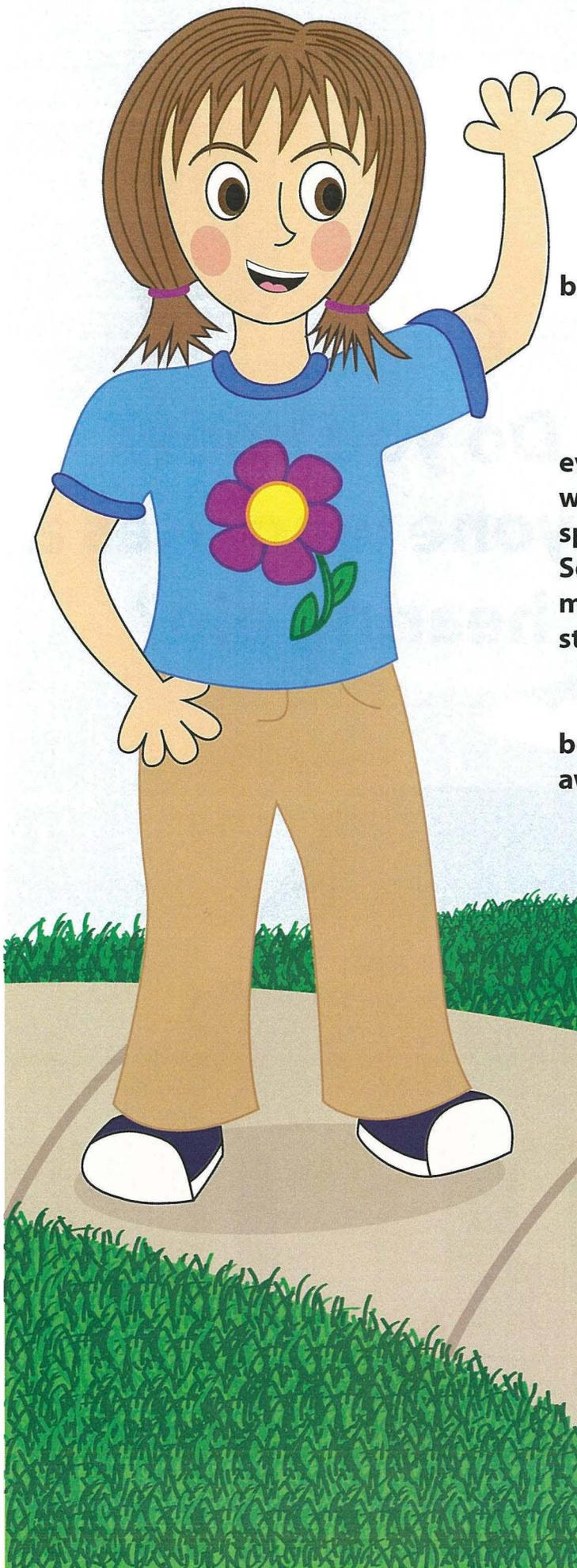
See... they are really tiny, so I have to be careful not to lose them. They are made especially for my ears, so no one else can wear them.

I like your hearing aid, Aubrey, and I'm glad it helps you hear well. I think it's cool that you know sign language too!



**Do you know  
anyone who uses a  
hearing aid?**





**This is Kobe.**

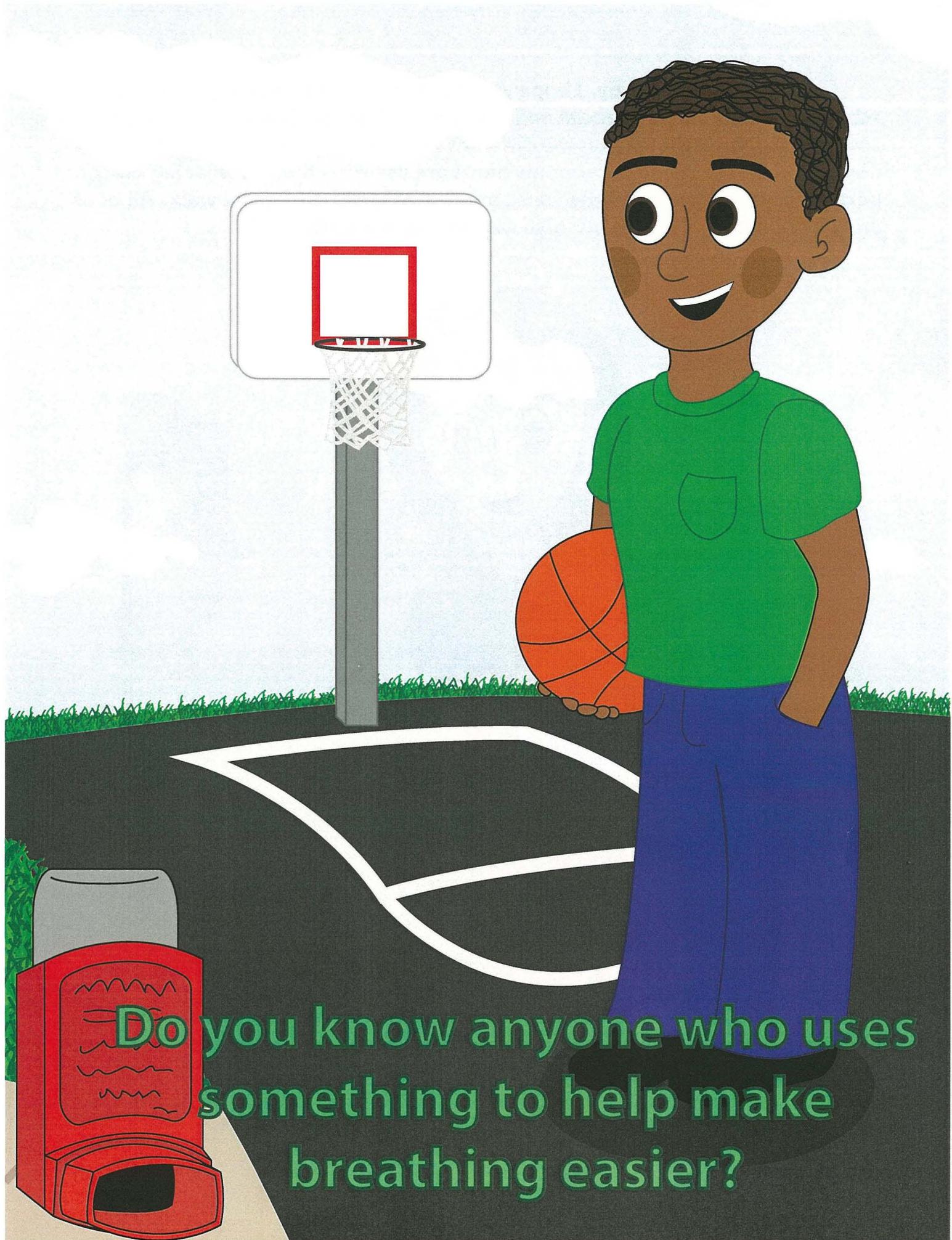
**Hi Kobe! What makes you different?**

**Hi Wendy! Sometimes I have trouble breathing.**

**Why do you have trouble breathing, Kobe?**

**Sometimes my lungs don't work as well as everyone else's. Sometimes I cough a lot or even wheeze. I go to the nurse, and she gives me special medicine to help me breathe better. Sometimes I even have to use a special steam machine, if my breathing is really bad. The steam machine makes my breathing all better.**

**I'm glad the nurse can make you breathe better, Kobe. The steam machine sounds really awesome!**



Do you know anyone who uses something to help make breathing easier?

**Well, that's everybody. I hope you had fun meeting all of my friends at school. They are all very special and each one is different in their own way! I have something special that makes me different too! I wear braces on my legs. Right now you can't see them because my pants are covering them. I wear leg braces because my muscles are a little weak, and I need them to help me walk. All of us are different and special in our own way and we are all friends!**





**We are all different and special  
in our own way.**



On August 11, 2011, Governor Jack Markell signed House Bill 123 which proclaimed the month of October to be Disability History and Awareness month in Delaware, and encouraged all schools, annually, during the month of October, to provide instruction and events focusing on disability history, people with disabilities, and the disability rights movement.

Fast-forward nearly two years in June, 2013, Representative Quinton Johnson, Senator Bethany Hall-Long, and Co-Sponsor Senator Nicole Poore, introduced House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 33. This bill, passed on June 27, 2013, proclaims the month of October to be “Disability History and Awareness Month” in Delaware and encourages all Delaware center and family based pre-schools and childcare programs, annually during the month of October, to provide instruction and events focusing on disability history, people with disabilities, and the disability rights movement.

The Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens was instrumental in the success of both of these pieces of legislation. From the beginning GACEC has supported the efforts by hosting an annual Disability History and Awareness poster contest, producing a weekly newsletter each October, and establishing the current Disability Education & Awareness Program (DEAP). It is our belief that the youngest of Delaware’s citizens are a vital piece of the puzzle for the advancement, understanding, and acceptance of individuals with disabilities.

