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## **Special Needs Resource Materials Available for Loan:**

MetroWest ABLE makes the following items available to be shared throughout our MetroWest community. If you would like to borrow one of the items, please contact Rebecca Wanatick, Community Coordinator for MetroWest ABLE at (973) 929-3129 or at [rwanatick@jfedgmw.org](mailto:rwanatick@jfedgmw.org)

### **DVDs:**

#### **A Place For All: Faith and Community for Persons with Disabilities**

This documentary explores the courageous stories of persons with disabilities as they create inclusive faith communities. This film reminds us that we are all created in the image of G-d. Rabbi Darby Jared Leigh, of MetroWest's Congregation B'nai Keshet, is featured in the film, sharing his experiences as one of the few deaf rabbis in the world (57 minutes).

#### **The Asperger's Difference**

This film follows three articulate young people as they navigate the waters of daily life and journey towards self-understanding and self-advocacy. The Asperger's Difference offers the viewer the opportunity to see often overlooked strengths in individuals with Asperger's Syndrome. An enclosed companion guide offers suggestions for educators and parents (31 minutes).

#### **Autism the Musical**

This riveting documentary follows five different families, participating in The Miracle Project (a theatre program created specifically for children with special needs) as their kids write and perform their own musical production. The film is as much about the parents of autistic kids as it is about the kids themselves. How does one communicate with a child who won't speak? What do you do when your kid only sleeps two hours per night? How do you cope with a world that has little use or compassion for kids that are so different? These are only a few of the questions that the parents must deal with (93 minutes).

#### **Autistic License**

Autistic License is a funny, heartbreaking, honest play about the rewards and struggles of raising a child with autism. It is about family, love, and relationships and speaks to anyone who thought their life was going in one direction, only to find themselves on a completely different path. Recently screened at the 2010 NJ Jewish Film Festival (89 minutes).

### **Darius Goes West**

15 year old Darius and eleven of his best friends set off across America with the ultimate goal of getting his wheelchair customized on MTV's Pimp My Ride. Not only does Darius bravely face his own inevitable fate with Muscular Dystrophy, but through his unflinching humor and his extraordinary laugh, he sparks a revolution in the lives of everyone who crosses his courageous path (94 minutes).

### **Disordered [thy name is teenager]**

ADHD. OCD. ODD. Eating disordered. Addicted. Anxious. Depressed. Alcoholic. Suicidal. For teenagers, these may be helpful diagnoses, or harmful labels. Can they be both? Just what is going on inside the teenage brain? In alternatively heart-rending and hilarious ways, a trio of blank slate theatre actors portrays what it's like to live with these labels in *Disordered [thy name is teenager]*. An accurate depiction of diagnosed, "at risk," teens. *Disordered [thy name is teenager]* is an integral teaching tool for educators.

### **Front of the Class**

This docudrama shares the triumphant life story of Brad Cohen, a man who lives daily with Tourette Syndrome, overcoming his obstacles to become a gifted educator. Follow Brad as a child, newly diagnosed with Tourette syndrome, and into adulthood as he pursues his career as a teacher. Discover what happens when one school gives Brad a chance (98 minutes).

### **How's Your News?**

Five outgoing reporters with intellectual and physical disabilities hit the road, traveling coast-to-coast in a hand painted RV and interviewing everyone they meet. The cast acknowledges that the humor, confusion and awkward moments depicted in the film are important aspects of living with a disability. People with disabilities, and those who are close to them, know that if you didn't have a sense of humor, it would be hard to get through a day (82 minutes).

### **I'm Tyler**

A short DVD that is a fun and effective introduction to the concept of Ability Awareness for teachers, administrators, youth leaders, or anyone who is around a lot of kids, and cares (10 minutes).

### **Including Samuel**

A beautiful film exploring the educational and social inclusion of children with disabilities. This film documents a family's journey as they provide opportunities for inclusion in all areas of their family's lives. The film also features 4 other families talking about their inclusion experiences, as well as interviews with educators, parents and disability rights advocates (58 minutes with printed viewers guide for use).

### **Intricate Minds: Understanding Classmates with Asperger Syndrome**

This video is an excellent introduction to Asperger Syndrome for typically developing adolescents and children. Teens with Asperger Syndrome (AS) movingly describe their own experience of the condition. This video will serve as an excellent resource for educators in helping typically developing peers understand classmates with AS (14 minutes).

### **Intricate Minds II: Understanding Elementary School Classmates with Asperger Syndrome**

This video includes interviews with boys and girls aged 8-12 who describe what it's like to have Asperger Syndrome (AS). They reveal some of the positive qualities students will find if they take the time to look past the "different" behaviors that classmates with AS sometimes exhibit in school (17 minutes).

### **Intricate Minds III: Understanding Elementary School Classmates Who Think Differently**

This video includes interviews with boys and girls aged 8-12 who describe what it's like to have conditions that make them act differently from their peers in school. The video covers behaviors that could be associated with Asperger Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Delays, Semantic-Pragmatic Disorder and similar conditions. This film can help classmates avoid the trap of ignoring and teasing children who have trouble fitting in (18 minutes).

### **Make Friends with Autism**

This documentary is a community focused initiative that encourages understanding, inclusion, support, and appreciation of individuals with autism and their families. Accompanying materials are available for use at [www.makefriendswithautism.org](http://www.makefriendswithautism.org) (24 minutes full version/14 minutes abridged version).

### **Mayor of the West Side**

A heartwarming film depicting the story of an 18 year old young man preparing for his bar mitzvah. This is an unsentimental look at individuals with disabilities. This sad and inspiring story tells about this young man's relationships in his neighborhood and family (60 minutes).

### **The Mighty**

Both Kevin and Max have been labeled by their peers as outcasts due to their individual challenges. They soon discover that by proudly combining their strengths and uniting as one, they can overcome their individual limitations and triumph over any adversity (100 minutes).

### **Misunderstood Minds**

Misunderstood Minds presents a very personal and moving look into the lives of five children and their families as they deal with the puzzling mysteries presented by their learning differences. This film illustrates the emerging view that specific identification and customized management of learning challenges is the key to success for the millions of children struggling in school. This film features leading experts in the field of learning challenges (90 minutes).

### **The Point**

The Point tells the story of Oblio, a round-headed boy living in the land of "Point," where everything and everybody has one. Since his head isn't pointed like everyone else's, Oblio is banished to the "Pointless Forest." This is a wonderful story, teaching of acceptance and tolerance of differences (74 minutes).

### **Praying with Lior**

An incredible film portraying the story of a young man with Down Syndrome preparing for Bar Mitzvah. It is a story about friendship, family, human emotion and community (87 minutes, with a bonus disc of educational special features).

### **Saying Yes - The Story of Max Rubin and the Neve Shalom Nursery School**

This is a short documentary sharing one NJ community's inclusion experience. This community didn't realize that providing an opportunity for Max to be a part of their preschool would not only benefit him. The children, teachers and greater synagogue community would also receive a gift - the gift of inclusion (15 minutes).

## **Printed/Program Materials:**

### **The Autism Acceptance Book (with Jewish Resource Guide)**

An interactive, educational and character-building book that introduces children to the challenges faced by people with autism while also supporting their personal journey toward appreciating and respecting people's differences. The 62-page spiral-bound book offers educational information, conversation-starters, and engaging exercises that invite children to "walk in someone else's shoes" as they learn to treat others the same ways they would like to be treated themselves.

### **The Child with Autism learns about Faith: 15 Ready-to-Use Scripture Lessons, from the Garden of Eden to the Parting of the Red Sea**

Endorsed by religious leaders, this groundbreaking book offers a step-by-step lesson plan for family members, educators, and religious staff—including scripted narratives, group activities, prayers, bible readings, classroom setup guidance, lists of additional resources, and more. This book is an essential tool for every faith community that wants to provide meaningful participation to all its members.

### **Derech Tzlecha! The Path To Success**

A manual for teachers and parents of special needs students. This resource provides a wealth of information including insights into learning preferences, strategies for teaching Hebrew, b'nai mitzvah modifications, games and activities.

### **Disability Awareness - Do It Right! Your all-in-one how-to guide**

Tips, techniques & handouts for a successful Awareness Day event, from the Ragged Edge online community.

### **Jewish Community Guide to Inclusion of People with Disabilities**

An essential resource for Jewish organizations seeking to provide a supportive and inclusive environment for people with disabilities. Includes a step by step guide for establishing an Inclusion Committee, comprehensive assessments and strategies, resources to create a plan of action, disability awareness training, 10 things to know about raising a child with special needs as well as additional information and resources.

### **Just Give Him The Whale!: 20 Ways to Use Fascinations, Areas of Expertise, and Strengths to Support Students with Autism**

This concise, highly practical guidebook gives educators across grade levels a powerful new way to think about students' obsessions as positive teaching tools that calm, motivate, and improve learning. Written by top autism experts and nationally renowned speakers Paula Kluth and Patrick Schwarz, this guide is brimming with easy tips and strategies for folding students' special interests, strengths, and areas of expertise into classroom lessons and routines.

### **A Part of Apart? and Everybody's Talking About A Part or Apart? By Jane Strauss**

The images upon which these books are based all were captured in the Jewish community in a particular locale and moment in time. Disability is no respecter of belief, so the additional materials provided in this Discussion Guide span the three major faith communities in the United States - Jewish, Christian, and Muslim. This book provides enough materials that the coordinator/leader may pick and choose those most appropriate to their situation, or perhaps use them all, as an additional means of teaching participants about diversity as represented in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**The Special Needs Acceptance Book (with Jewish Resource Guide)**

A book that helps demystify behaviors and differences and explains a range of disabilities including autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, learning challenges like dyslexia and behavioral conditions like ADHD. It encourages children to "walk in someone else's shoes" and to imagine how they would feel and like to be treated in various situations. It also reinforces to readers that we are all different and we are all special.

**Teaching Hebrew Reading to Students with Learning Disabilities**

This book provides methods and materials for teaching all students, and strategies to develop decoding accuracy and fluency.

**V'Khol Banayickh: Jewish Education for All**

This handbook describes various disabilities and provides an array of options including program models, professional development, interventions and resources (material and organizations). It is designed to be used as a Jewish special needs resource guide for teachers.

**Inclusive Service Learning Curriculum**

This innovative curriculum provides educators and youth workers with a new tool for engaging elementary-age learners in service learning. Includes an activity guide for instructors in helping children with and without disabilities become partners in planning and carrying out service learning projects, while teaching social and life skills to children of all abilities and challenging stereotypes about young people with disabilities. The curriculum package also includes the storybook, "Our Friend Mikayla," and access to online resources to supplement the curriculum.

## **Children's Literature to Support Inclusion**

### **The Crayon Box That Talked, by Shane Derolf**

In this tale, talking crayons learn to appreciate one another when the narrator draws with them, thus showing them how each helps create a bigger picture. The message of the book is to learn to appreciate, rather than dislike, other people's differences.

### **Don't Laugh At Me, by Steve Seskin**

This picture-book is an adaptation of a heartfelt tune that inspired, and has become the anthem for, a rapidly expanding educational program within an organization called Operation Respect (founded by Yarrow, of Peter, Paul & Mary). The text/lyrics focus on the ridicule suffered by a boy with glasses, a girl who wears braces and a wheelchair-bound child, among others, ultimately uniting the voices of the bullied in the verse "Don't laugh at me./ Don't call me names./ Don't get your pleasure from my pain./ In God's eyes we're all the same."

### **Gabriel's Ark, by Sandra R. Curtis**

Gabe is born with a disability, and his loving Jewish family teaches and supports him. When Gabe turns 13 the family wonders how he will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah. Gabe's difficulties are never minimized, but with the help of his family and an extraordinary rabbi, he says the Bar Mitzvah prayer his way, all by himself, and he is welcomed into the community. With humanity and hope, the story dramatizes the rabbi's message of acceptance, that "each of us is special in our own way, because we are all created in God's image."

### **Hooway for Wodney Wat, by Helen Lester**

Wodney, a shy rat who can't pronounce his r's, rises to the occasion and outsmarts a new student who terrorizes the classroom. This book is an ego booster for any child who has ever been bullied or teased, with illustrations that exude charm and personality.

### **It's Okay To Be Different, by Todd Parr**

Parr cautiously calls attention to superficial distinctions. By picturing a smiling girl with a guide dog ("It's okay to need some help"), he comments on disability and he accounts for race by posing a multicolored zebra with a black-and-white one. He wisely doesn't zero in on specifics, which would force him to establish what's "normal." Instead, he focuses on acceptance and individuality and encourages readers to do the same.

### **In Jesse's Shoes, by Beverly Lewis**

What parent hasn't urged son or daughter not to stare at or tease a child who is "different" or has a disability in some way? In this sensitive yet realistic story, Jesse's sister struggles to understand her brother--and the kids who make fun of him. This endearing book will encourage families everywhere to appreciate children with special needs.

### **Junkyard Wonders, by Patricia Polacco**

Based on true events, this inspiring story celebrates the extraordinary influence a teacher can have on her students. As Trisha enters a new school in Michigan, she hopes she won't be relegated to a special class. At her old school, she had trouble learning to read. On the first day, she is disappointed to learn that Room 206 is known as the junkyard. Fortunately, their teacher, Mrs. Peterson, doesn't allow her students to feel like misfits. She divides her Junkyard Wonders into tribes, creating a sense of unity among them.

**Knots on a Counting Rope, by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault**

This is the story of a child with a disability who, with the support of his grandfather, takes on a difficult challenge and competes to his highest potential. The story integrates overcoming challenges, unconditional parental love, hard work, and aging while finishing with a realistic outcome. The reader will be moved with pride and hope.

**Nathan Blows Out the Hanukkah Candles, by Tami Lehman-Wilzig and Nicole Katzman**

It's not easy having an older brother who is challenged and does embarrassing things. Ask Jacob and he'll tell you all about his older brother Nathan. This engaging, fictional story introduces young children to autism in general and by extension to other developmental disabilities. Told through the eyes of a younger brother, the book's characters learn an important Jewish value - how to accept others.

**The Sneetches and Other Stories, by Dr. Seuss**

The Sneetches is a story of a society of haves and have-nots, in which accessibility to everyday life is determined by whether or not you have a star on your belly. It is an amazing story for opening a dialogue with your child (regardless of age) about tolerance, race and prejudice. The philosophical questions that can easily be generated are limitless. Fantastic lesson in tolerance of diversity!

**The Ugly Duckling, by Hans Christian Andersen**

The mother duck knew from the very beginning that one of her babies would be different from the rest... the sixth egg was large and oddly shaped. When it finally hatches that summer, she thinks the "monstrous big duckling" must be a turkey chick! Other ducks are appalled by the ugly duckling, and he is chased, pecked, and kicked aside. When the ugly duckling turns into a swan, everyone learns that it doesn't matter if you don't look like everyone else. We should like who we are. A wonderful book to teach acceptance of people different than ourselves.



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