BECKER'S Talking Points

I like to play. You like to play. I can sing. You can sing. I can be silly. You can be silly. We are similar in so many ways. We have some differences too. I use my legs to walk to the playground and you use a wheelchair to get to the playground. I am



This resource supports the I Can Do It! Puzzle Set <u>Item #BSS934900</u>

good at putting puzzles together. You are a good listener at story time. We are the same and we are different.

Some Key Concepts When Speaking About Differing Abilities*

- It is best practice to identify a child's humanity before naming a particular disability. For example, in conversation you would say a child with Down syndrome rather than a Down syndrome child.
- Be thoughtful about your use of terms. If you're unsure about how to refer to a child with a difference in ability, talk to the families about the terms they use. Most importantly, think of differences as one aspect of each person, not the identifying aspect.
- Here are some more examples of good practices:
 - Instead of saying "deaf boy" to describe a child, say "a boy with a hearing loss."
 - Instead of saying the "girl in the wheelchair," say "the girl using the wheelchair."
- The use of certain words or phrases or the order in which we put words may seem subtle, but the impact can be far reaching.
- If children point and ask questions, it's often out of appropriate curiosity. Help them understand what they see by answering their questions.
- Foster an anti-bias, inclusive classroom by supporting all children to be selfaware, confident, joyful, and respectful.

*Source: Sparks, L.D., & J.O. Edwards. 2010. Anti-Bias Education for Young Children and Ourselves, National Association for the Education of Young Children, Washington D.C.

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This little girl is holding up two words, "you can." What do you think that means? What are some things that you can do? Or things you wish you could do?

- Can you play with blocks?
- Can you brush your teeth?
- Can you read?
- Can you be kind to your friends?
- Can you drive a car?
- Can you run fast?

The girl pictured here is in a chair called a wheelchair. Do you think that's a good name for a chair that has wheels? Some people cannot walk on their own so they use a wheelchair to get around. What are some things this girl can do?



How many children are in this picture? Describe what they are doing. As you invite children to look carefully at the picture, they may or may not notice the hearing aid in the girl's ear. Some people have hearing impairments. They don't hear sounds and words clearly. Wearing a hearing aid can help some people hear more clearly.

Encourage children to use descriptive language when they describe what they see in this picture.

- Setting: Green, lush grass; shrubs
- Objects: Rocking boat
- Clothes and accessories: Yellow shorts, short-sleeve shirt; blue sweatshirt, bright pink top; blue bows; wearing a hearing aid
- Actions: Reaching, bending, holding, looking, smiling, playing together



This puzzle picture is a little different than the others in this series. In the other pictures we see children that may use adaptive equipment or accessories to walk, see, or hear better and some children with physical differences. Sometimes we don't see that someone learns or thinks in a different way. In this group, some children don't understand everything the teacher is saying. Some of the children have a hard time sitting still while the teacher is talking. We need to be patient and understanding of all of our friends.

Let's make up a story about what is happening in this picture.

We can give pretend names to everyone and try to answer these questions:

- What are they doing?
- When is it happening?
- Where are they?
- Why is the teacher smiling?



BECKER'S Talking Points





The children in this puzzle picture are doing art projects. They are using different art tools to make pictures.

Ask a few questions and see if the children can answer with words, not by pointing.

- Which child is holding a paint brush?
- What is the girl in the red smock using?
- Who is wearing something blue?
- How many children are wearing glasses? Does anybody in our class wear glasses?
- Why do people wear glasses?



Happiness is a big smile!

- Look at this picture. What is the girl doing? Can you tell if she is outside or inside? How do you know? What do you wear when you go outside?
- The girl in this picture has Down syndrome. She likes to play outside, she loves to hug her friends and her teacher, and sometimes she gets frustrated when she tries to do a puzzle.
- If you see someone in your class get upset or frustrated, what could you do to help?

Interesting Fact: Down syndrome was named after Dr. John Langdon Haydon Down in 1866. He noticed that many of the patients had similar physical features and traits. Not until 100 years later was Down syndrome identified as a genetic condition.



This is a family out for a walk.

- What is on the ground?
- What sound do you hear when you walk on dried leaves?

Let's pretend we're walking outside and make loud crunching sounds.

- Find the toddler in the picture. She is just learning to walk.
- Do you remember when you learned to walk?
- If her mom and sister let go of her hands, do you think she would fall?

The boy in this picture is wearing glasses to help him see and a cane to help him walk.

- How is his mom helping him?
- Does your mom or dad help you do things that might be hard?

BECKER'S

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