Children and Teen Books and Videos about people using Wheelchairs, Crutches, Leg Braces

The following books and videos are available for free loan from the PRC library. For more information, please visit the online catalog at: http://www1.youseemore.com/ReevePRC/default.asp

Non-Fiction Books


Stefan is a 9 year old who has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. He lives in Sweden and is portrayed in his wheelchair, going to physical therapy and having fun at home and school.

- Brown, Steven. **Ed Roberts: Wheelchair Genius.** 2015. Biography of Roberts who was a leader in the disability rights and independent living movements. Written at middle school level.


- Burns, Kay. **Our Mom.** New York: Franklin Watts, 1989. Describes how a mother of four leads an active life with paralysis of her legs that requires her to use a wheelchair.


- English, Jennifer. **My Mommy’s Special.** Chicago: Children’s Press, 1985. Jennifer’s mom is a wheelchair user who has MS.

- Gaynor, Kate. **The Lost Puppy.** Dublin: Belvedere Print Ltd., 2008. A young boy who is a wheelchair user finds a dog with a broken leg.


- Kent, Deborah. **Animal Helpers for the Disabled.** New York: Watts Library (Franklin-Watts), 2003. Describes the various service animals (dogs, horses, monkeys) and what they can do for people with various disabilities (deafness, blindness, wheelchair users).


- Montalvan, Luis Carlos. **Tuesday Tucks Me In: The Loyal Bond between a Soldier and His Service Dog.** New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2014. Montalvan is a former U.S. Army Captain in the Iraq War. This children’s book explores the relationship between service dog and master and explains what a service dog does.


- Prall, Jo. **My Sister’s Special.** Chicago: Children’s Press, 1985. A young boy describes life with his sister Angie who is a wheelchair user due to brain damage.


- Rissman, Rebecca. **We All Move.** Chicago, Ill.: Heinemann Library, 2009. Disabilities and Differences Series. For young readers, this book introduces the concept of people with disabilities playing and exercising.


• Royson, Angela. *Using a Wheelchair (What’s it Like?)*. Chicago: Heinemann Library, 2005.


• Thomas, Pat. *Don’t Call Me Special: A First Look at Disability*. Hauppauge, NY: Barron’s Educational Series, 2002. Children with wheelchairs, braces, and crutches are featured playing, going to school, etc.


**Fiction Books**


Nolan is a little boy who uses a wheelchair and cruises around with his teddy bear named Teddy. The character Nolan is based on a real life Nolan who developed Transverse Myelitis.

- Aiello, Barbara and Jeffrey Shulman. *It’s Your Turn at Bat*. Frederick, MD: Twenty-First Century Books, 1988. A good introduction to cerebral palsy with questions and answers about the condition at the end.


- Carlson, Judy. *Here Comes Kate!* Austin, TX: Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 1989. Kate learns to control the speed of her wheelchair.

Arnie (a dog) is a wheelchair user who gets teased by Philip (a cat), the new kid in school. When Philip breaks his leg, Arnie helps him out and they become friends.

  Jeremy, who can’t walk without crutches, lives by the sea. When his friends see a sea monster they abandon him and his crutches fall out of reach. He must make friends with the sea monster. The sea monster later helps him solve his mother’s money problems.


  A child relates how he and his best friend, who is a wheelchair user, are both alike and different.

  Howie must practice and work hard to be able to move his manual wheelchair by himself since his arms are weak.

  Tommy makes friends with a wheelchair user named William. They try to raise money to buy a wheelchair for an African boy with polio.

  Molly is a ballerina who uses a wheelchair.

  A young boy who uses a wheelchair surfs with the seals and befriends one.

  Skye’s friend Kyle is a wheelchair user. Kyle shows the other kids that he can do everything they can just in a different way.

  Doug breaks his leg and thinks he can’t participate in winter sports. He learns from his friend’s father, who is a wheelchair user, that they can still participate in sports.
Based on the TV series Touched by an Angel. With the guidance of an angel, fifteen-year old juvenile offender Jason discovers the rewards of working with and helping Kelly who uses a wheelchair and has cerebral palsy.

Jonathan hates feeling different because he is a wheelchair user. When a twister hits town, he is alone at his family’s farm and saves the animals.

After she fixes up her stuffed tiger, Mandy takes him to the pet store for tiger food but finds she can’t get her wheelchair inside because of the steps out front. Each page in English and Spanish.

Julia’s dad is a wheelchair user who can do everything other dads do.

Juvenile fiction about a 17-year old girl with cerebral palsy who attends a summer camp for kids with disabilities.


Lupe and her mother immigrated to California from Mexico. Lupe is a wheelchair user.

• Klein, Adria F. **Max’s Fun Day**. Minneapolis: Picture Window Books, 2008.
Max is an African-American boy who is a wheelchair user and spends the day with his friend.

Features a monkey who uses a wheelchair.

Nick is a wheelchair user who helps his class out when a basketball becomes lodged out of reach.

• MacDiarmid, Carolyn. **I’m Wendy Blair, Not a Chair!** Toronto: Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work, 2003.

• Marron, Carol A. **No Trouble for Grandpa.** Milwaukee: Raintree Publishers, 1983.
  David is a wheelchair user who doesn’t want his baby sister to come along on his trip to Grandpa’s.

  Told by a young girl whose father serves in the military and is injured. The book gives children hope that if their parent is injured, there are people who are ready to help them relearn functions so they can have a good life again, even if it is different.

  Alex, a wheelchair user, is a new student in Little Critter’s class.

  Baby Bear is a wheelchair user in this adaptation of Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

  Permanently paralyzed by a football injury, Steve must learn to develop new interests which will give him hope for the future.

  Adrian is a young boy who uses a wheelchair.

• Morgan, Cathryn. **GrrOUCH! Pain is Like a Grouchy Bear.** Renfrew, Ontario: General Store Publishing House, 2011.
  Teaches children about chronic pain.

  Barbie (the doll) is a camp counselor. Her friend Becky is a wheelchair user who comes to help her out as a counselor. Becky shows her athletic skills at basketball and volleyball.

  Lauretta needs a new wheelchair and convinces her mom to let her try out a really fast one.
  This book highlights the earthquake that occurred in Haiti. People from aid organizations supply basketballs to the children. Children with disabilities are featured throughout the narrative.

  Eva is a wheelchair user who impresses her friend Hugo by using her problem-solving skills.

  The story of a little girl Nora who is a wheelchair user. She and her family rally the town to build an adaptive playground so she can play with the other children. Based on an adaptive playground built in Frisco TX.

  Matthew is a young wheelchair user. He and his grandfather sail in their boat Arabella.

  A young boy with muscular dystrophy describes all that his service dog “Buddy” does for him.

  J.T. and Natalie are wheelchair users who try to find a woman who left a magical package on the bus. J.T. has spina bifida.

  Seven-year old Rebecca is paralyzed in a car accident. Her rabbit friend Terry talks to the other kids in the rehab unit to find out more about spinal cord injuries.


  Red Riding Hood is a wheelchair user in this adaptation of Little Red Riding Hood.

Derek’s teacher tells the class that Amy who has cerebral palsy will join their class. Derek’s grandfather explains various disabilities to him so that Derek will know how to treat Amy. Amy is a wheelchair and crutches user.

  Curious George goes to the playground with his friend Tina who is a wheelchair user. They get to play basketball with the other children.


  Princess Lena learns to ride horses with her disability.

  Yossi and Laibel meet a neighbor who is a wheelchair user who joins them in baseball games and helps them win games by pitching.

  A little boy who struggles to do a handstand is taught there are alternative ways by his wheelchair-using friend.

  Stacy explains her CP to her class and pursues her dream of becoming a model in a wheelchair.

  Bobby’s neighbor Jimmy is a wheelchair user. Bobby has a dream one night that Jimmy can run and he is in the wheelchair.

  Introduces children to wheelchair users through Becky who attends a concert and plays with her friend.

- Shang, Melissa and Eva. *Mia Lee is Wheeling Through Middle School*. 2016.
  The authors are sisters one of whom has muscular dystrophy.

  Eight-year old Sam receives a spinal cord injury. It explains how Sam deals with the changes that follow. It also discusses prevention of spinal cord injuries. The book can be read online or downloaded at [www.spinalcord.uab.edu](http://www.spinalcord.uab.edu) (type “Speedway Sam” in the search box or go directly to [http://images.main.uab.edu/spinalcord/pdffiles/SpeedwaySam.pdf](http://images.main.uab.edu/spinalcord/pdffiles/SpeedwaySam.pdf))

• Sperling, Maida Jane. **My Wheelchair is a Realchair.** Xlibris Corporation, 1996. Uses dolls to portray a young wheelchair user and her friends and family.

• Stafford, Elaine. **A Race for Charley.** Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2007. Charlie is a young boy who uses a wheelchair.

• Strauss, Janet Bothe. **A New School for Susan.** Arcadia, CA: Children’s World Publisher, 1981. Susan has cerebral palsy and is going to a new school. Susan uses braces and a walker.

• Suen, Anastasia. **Helping Sophia.** Edina, MN: Red Wagon, 2008. Sophia’s teacher has the rest of the class take turns pushing Sophia in her wheelchair when her aide is absent.


• Thevenet, Gerard. **Franky Can.** St. John’s, Newfoundland, Canada: Breakwater Books, 1988. The fact that Franky is a wheelchair user is not revealed until the last page.


• Turner, Deborah. **How Willy Got His Wheels.** Wilsonville, OR: Doral Publishing, 1998. Willy is a spinal cord injured Chihuahua who must drag his hindquarters until his owner buys him a wheelchair cart.


Sean befriends David who is a wheelchair user. They try out for the basketball team together.

  Hunter Bunny who uses a motorized wheelchair and visually-impaired Clark the Duck find friendship and together help deliver baskets for the Easter Bunny after he sprains his ankle.

  Prince Francisco (a pig) rules his kingdom from a wheelchair.

  Spiney is a porcupine who has a spinal cord injury. He must learn new ways of doing things.

  Susan is seen enjoying life. Her wheelchair is not revealed until the last page.

  Jason wears a leg brace and learns from Earl the Emu that God has a purpose for those who are different.

  Emma has spina bifida and is a wheelchair user.

**Parents Who Use Wheelchairs—Books**

  For the very young reader. A little boy and his wheelchair-user mother pretend her wheelchair is various forms of transportation like an airplane.

- Dick, Glen. *We Can Go Anywhere: My Adventures on Daddy’s Chair*. Black Rose Writing, 2016.

  Sammy tries to help his dad who is a wheelchair user out of his depression.

  The main character is a little boy whose father uses a wheelchair. The son explains that he loves his dad’s wheelchair because it helps him.

Zajac, Kristen K. *Ebeneezer’s Cousin*. St. Louis, MO: Guardian Angel Publishing, 2010. Maria’s dad is a soldier who is injured in Afghanistan. The family gets a service monkey for him. Ebeneezer is Maria’s toy monkey.

**Grandparents Who Use Wheelchairs—Books**


Craig, Alyssa and Barbara Laughlin Craig. *Nana’s in a Wheelchair*. Bloomington, Ind.: CrossBooks, 2011. Krystal’s grandmother had some strokes which left her paralyzed.


**Siblings Who Use Wheelchairs—Books**


Elliott, Rebecca. *Just Because*. Oxford: Lion Hudson, 2011. A little boy describes the fun he has with his older sister who is a wheelchair user.
• Emmert, Michelle. *I'm the Big Sister Now*. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Co., 1989. Michelle’s older sister Amy has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair.

• Heelan, Jamee Riggio. *Rolling Along: The Story of Taylor and His Wheelchair*. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree Publishing, 2000. Taylor is a wheelchair user due to cerebral palsy. Taylor has a twin brother who does not have CP.


• Muldoon, Kathleen M. *Princess Pooh*. Niles, IL: Albert Whitman & Co., 1989. Patty Jean is jealous of how her sister who’s a wheelchair user gets treated. Patty tries using her sister’s wheelchair to see what it feels like.

• Wanous, Suzanne. *Sara’s Secret*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 1995. Sarah is afraid to share the news that her brother Justin has cerebral palsy and is in a wheelchair. She decides she will bring Justin to class to show she is not ashamed of him.

**Videos for Children**

• *Sesame Street: Elmocize*. Sony Wonder, 1996. DVD and VHS. (30 minutes). Elmo leads the exercises in a video that features a young wheelchair user in “Workout in a Chair” segment.

• *Kids in Wheelchairs/Kids Like Me*. From the maker: "This video portrays children in wheelchairs in full inclusion settings, classrooms and playgrounds. Children who use wheelchairs explain why they use the wheelchair and how it works. Several aspects of how to become a safe and responsible peer buddy are described."

• *Kids Just Want to Have Fun*. Produced by Shriner's Hospital for Children of Portland. Available from the Amputee Coalition of America. From the maker: "This is a 7-minute video designed to support children and teens with physical differences. It features children and adolescents with cerebral palsy, neuromuscular conditions, spina bifida, amputations, cleft lip and burn scars. The children talk openly about their lives and their differences." (Target audience: Grades K-5)

• *Kid Ability*. Available from Program Development Associates ([www.disabilitytraining.com](http://www.disabilitytraining.com)). VHS. (25 minutes) Children host this video and educate themselves and the viewer about disabilities. While profiling adults and children who talk candidly about their disabilities, they
learn that people are more alike than different. It provides general disability etiquette guidelines that both children and adults can benefit from. Grades K-12.

- Kid Ability Two. Available from Program Development Associates (www.disabilitytraining.com). VHS. (24 minutes)
  This video introduces a few of the assistive technology devices that people with disabilities use. Hosted by children, this video helps increase awareness of the role AT plays in the everyday lives of people. Watch the technology in action as people with disabilities and an AT expert explain the use of computer and Internet switches, adapted vehicles, and communication boards. Created for Grades 5-12.

- Kid Ability One and Two. Available from Program Development Associates (www.disabilitytraining.com). DVD.
  See above for description.

- Mac and Me. MGM Home Entertainment, 1999.
  Eric is a wheelchair user who befriends MAC (Mysterious Alien Creature). Drama

  Mister Rogers has a discussion with Chrissie Thompson, a young girl with spina bifida. This program was originally aired in 1975.

  Mister Rogers has a discussion with Jeff Erlanger, a young boy who uses a wheelchair. This program was originally aired in 1981.

- No Body’s Perfect...Everybody’s Special. Attainment Co. 1998. (21 minutes)
  Features 3 children who help kids learn about special conditions.

  For grades 1-3.

Books for Teens


Fiction. A young girl’s life is shattered when she suffers a spinal cord injury. With the help of her eccentric grandmother and a young boy, Kathryn begins her journey toward recovery.


Teens with various disabilities answer questions and share their experiences in relationships, dating, sexuality, family life and independence.

Explains what SCI is and covers treatment, coping, includes a glossary and resource list.


Teenagers relate their experience about being spinal cord injured.

Fiction. High school football player paralyzed in game.


Four teens are interviewed about their disabilities including cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy.


**Videos for Teens**

• **On the Edge**. Rolling Meadows, IL: Think First Foundation, 1993. (15 minutes)
Emphasizes the prevention of brain and spinal cord injury.
• **Teens & Disabilities.** (Real Life Teens series). Venice, Calif.: TMW Media Group, 2007. DVD. (18 minutes)
  A Teachers Guide for this video is available at [www.tmwmedia.com](http://www.tmwmedia.com).

• **Understanding the Disabled: Dances with the Minotaur.** Cambridge Educational, 2001. (44 minutes)

• **What's the Difference?** Produced by Shriner's Hospital for Children of Portland. Available from the Amputee Coalition of America.
  From the maker:"This is an 8-minute video designed to support teens with physical differences and educate their peers. It features children and adolescents with cerebral palsy, neuromuscular conditions, spina bifida, amputations, cleft lip and burn scars. It shows them enjoying all types of activities and sports, such as kayaking, hockey, skiing, and shopping."

The information contained in this message is presented for the purpose of educating and informing you about paralysis and its effects. Nothing contained in this message should be construed nor is intended to be used for medical diagnosis or treatment. It should not be used in place of the advice of your physician or other qualified health care provider. Should you have any health care related questions, please call or see your physician or other qualified health care provider promptly. Always consult with your physician or other qualified health care provider before embarking on a new treatment, diet or fitness program. You should never disregard medical advice or delay in seeking it because of something you have read in this message.

This project was supported, in part by grant number 90PR3002, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorships are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.