

Special Books By Special Kids

Special Books by Special Kids is a multi-media project designed to spread empathy, understanding and awareness for children with a variety of special needs. It is also intended to connect parents, build camaraderie, serve as an educational resource and provide these children with an audience to share their thoughts.

A Project by Christopher Ulmer



Forward from the Project's Founder

The concept for this book was born out of fear. Before I explain this fear I will have to introduce myself.

I am a 26 year old special education teacher for children with a diversity of special needs. You would not deduct this about me upon first glance. I look like I should be camping on a mountain as opposed to in a classroom. I have not shaved in half a year and take pride in my non-traditional appearance.

I would describe myself as a "beach bum". I spend my evenings and weekends playing volleyball, guitar and surfing.

My teaching style is anything but traditional, yet I have seen extreme success. I have had the same students for three school years and we have become a family. I accept and love each of them. They do the same for me.

Due to a combination of acceptance wackiness and love, these children have welcomed me into their world. We communicate fully and understand one another. There is a mutual feeling of respect and understanding. It is as if we have developed our own language.

This is when the fear sets in.

I often recall the thought I had my first day working with these children, "What the heck is going on?" Three years later, I understand

each sentence, blink and movement. I have learned their language. Not many individuals who meet these children will have the same benefit of time to establish such a bond.

Curious glances are directed at these children during community outings. Like-aged peers do not understand attempts at communication made by my students. Many adults avoid interaction because they fear they will offend somebody and don't know the "appropriate" way to interact with a special needs child.

My fear is that I am one of the only people who will ever speak their language. My fear is that after they move on from my classroom, other individuals will not see the beauty and intelligence each of these children hold.

After reaching out to the parents of eight of my students, it became clear that they shared my anxiety.

This is when I became inspired to create Special Books by Special Kids.

Please join me in working to build a community that celebrates these incredible children for all of the talent, imagination, and love they possess.

-Christopher Ulmer, MAT



Get to Know These Amazing Kids!

Our Facebook showcases video interviews, pictures and quotes from the children featured in the book as well as updates on the project. New content is added regularly!



Spreading love and empathy for children with diverse special needs and their families.

We are currently in the process of negotiating with publishers and need your support! Here's how you can help:

Visit and Like our Facebook page.

Like and Share our posts.

Invite you friends to Like the page.

Every contribution adds up. You can be a part of this great cause and help provide these children with the audience they deserve!



FIND OUT MORE

specialbooksbyspecialkids.com

<https://www.facebook.com/specialbooksbyspecialkids>

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FACEBOOK STATISTICS TO DATE

First post was April 9th, 2015

9,549 Likes and growing as of June 4th, 2015

Averaging 200+ Facebook Likes a day through word of mouth/grassroots marketing

Last 14 videos have averaged 4,896 Views

Last 4 Pictures have averaged 324 Likes

Last 4 Pictures have averaged 81 Shares

Messages of Support from the Public and the Experts

"Thanks for your brilliant work in the area. Insider perspectives is one of my research interests and I know how powerful such perspectives and stories are – kudos to you!"

-Phyllis Jones, Ph.D., College of Education, University of South Florida

"It is with great joy that I go to your site and see you "publishing" your kid's talent in so many ways....not only through the book project, but through music and others arts."

-Troy Bell, Ph.D., Professor at Michigan State University Educational Psychology and Special Education

"Now, this teacher is doing way more than teaching these kids. He is giving them a voice to be heard. I personally think that each teacher in each school would benefit by reading this. This is our opportunity to view how they see through their eyes. I know that words can't really show us, but this is as close as we will get."

-Anna Cowart, Special Education Teacher

"Having worked with special needs children for several years and then fostering and adopting my son who is on the autism spectrum I find myself constantly begging for more support and more understanding. So many people are unaware and uneducated on what life with special needs is really like. Even friends and family members who you expect to be by side cheering you on, just don't "get it". This book will share great knowledge and increase acceptance.

Also, As a single parent I have juggled many doctor and therapy appointments, aggressive and scary meltdowns, and dealt with disappointments of failed therapy or medication trials gone bad all by myself. I've read every book I can get my hands on hoping to find some item or idea that might help to make life for my son a little easier. Unfortunately, I have also spent many nights just crying not knowing what to try next. For the longest time I felt like I was the only one fighting this battle. Sometimes we just need to hear other family's stories to inspire us to continue putting up the good fight for our amazing kids. I know for sure that I would definitely buy the book because I am a sucker for an inspirational story of hope."

-Julie Hull, Parent of a child with autism

"You really impress me with the way in which you are facilitating the education of the masses. You do a lot of adult education on Facebook and draw attention to our kiddos strengths and similarities while dispelling myths. Rockin' it with dignity! My kiddo is 15, Aspie, and hysterical. And I think he'd really enjoy chatting with you as you provide a platform for those with differences to educate others."

Anna Asan, Parent of a child with special needs