



## Matan's Recommended Early Childhood Inclusion Books

*Mama Zooms* by Jane Cowen-Fletcher:

In this book, a young girl whose mother is a wheelchair user tells the story of zooming around together. This book uses fun, simple language and shows the positive side of disability.

*DK Braille: Animals* (or another DK Braille book)

This accessible picture book shows that there is more than one way to read! All of the text is printed in both Braille and standard print, and all of the images can be felt as well as seen.

*We're Amazing 1, 2, 3!* by Leslie Kimmelman and Mary Beth Nelson

This book comes from the Sesame Street and Autism project. Developed with input from the autistic community, this book sends the respectful message that it's okay to be different and that there are a lot of ways to play. [It's also available as a free e-book](#). As is another excellent [Sesame Street book](#) (which unfortunately doesn't have a print version).

*The Princess and the Peanut Allergy* by Wendy McClure and Tammie Lyon

A realistic story about discrimination and misunderstanding with a happy ending. A girl with a peanut allergy is almost uninvited to a birthday party because her friend thinks she's being unreasonable by refusing to eat a peanut cake. Eventually, she realizes that peanuts really are that dangerous and that she can celebrate with a princess cake that is safe for everyone.

*Max's Words* by Kate Banks

A young boy collects words the way that others collect coins and stamps. Eventually, Max starts stringing his words into sentences and stories. This is a fairly accurate description of how some people with cognitive and communication disorders experience language.

*Rolling Along: The Story of Taylor and His Wheelchair* by Jamee Riggio Heelan and Nicola Simmonds

Taylor is excited about getting his first wheelchair because he will be able to move faster and do more by himself. This can help children to learn what wheelchairs are all about without having to make someone else into an object lesson.

*The Balancing Girl* by Bernice Rabe

This book is out of print but easily available at [abebooks.com](#) and other used books websites. In this story, an elementary-aged girl who uses a wheelchair is also a domino-stacking enthusiast. Her dominos end up playing a prominent role in the school fair. This book very unusually takes her inclusion for granted instead of focusing on explaining her presence or her disability.