

May 2005

A selection of books for young children on cerebral palsy and related issues

Introduction

Please note this is *not* a comprehensive list of the books available that might include children or characters with cerebral palsy. For more titles and in particular titles relating to other impairments visit the web links listed under additional sources.

Children's books often have a short shelf-life and become out of print very quickly. The books marked with * may be more difficult to obtain or be out of print but it is worth keeping an eye on book search websites like Amazon, or asking at your local library if they can obtain a copy.

The books in this list are listed as being suitable for children under nine or ten but please bear in mind that this may vary for individual children.

As part of its Time to Get Equal campaign, Scope's In The Picture project aims to increase the numbers of children's picture books that include disabled children. See www.scope.org.uk for more information.

Are We There Yet? Wilkins, V.A.

Tamarind Books, 1996. **ISBN** 187051629X.

This illustrated children's story for young children looks at a car ride taken by two children and their father, who uses a wheelchair.

Boots for a Bridesmaid Wilkins, V.A.

Tamarind, 1995. **ISBN** 1870516303

The story of Nicky, who is filled with horror when she is asked to be a bridesmaid and wear a frilly dress – it doesn't fit in with her image of

being a champion cricketer! Her mother, who is a wheelchair user, soon resolves the problem and it all makes for a happy day.

Ferris Fleet the Wheelchair Wizard Dalton, Annie. Illustrated by Carl Pearce

Tamarind, 2005 **ISBN 1870516737**

An exciting futuristic adventure story, featuring an enterprising little boy and his good friend the magician in a wheelchair!

The Day Ravi Smiled Lobel, Gillian. Illustrated by K Harley
Tamarind 2005 **ISBN 870516761**

Set in a real riding centre that caters for disabled children (including cerebral palsy, spina bifida, autism, sight or hearing difficulties and behavioural problems), this story provides encouragement and inclusion, as well as being a great yarn!

Can't You be Still? Yates, S. Illustrated by B Gemma

Winnipeg, 1992 **ISBN 0969647700**

A picture book about a girl with cerebral palsy and her friends.

Friends at School Bunnett, R. Photography by M Brown

New York: Star Bright Books, 1995. **ISBN 1887734015**.

This book helps people to understand that even though some children may look different and have different abilities, they still like to do the same things as everyone else.

Hands up for Andie Palmer, B. Illustrated by A Whitson

Hemi-Help Northern Ireland, 1998. **ISBN 0953420701**

The story of an eight-year-old girl with cerebral palsy which includes cartoon pictures of her in her leg splint.

Howie Helps Himself Fassler, J. Illustrated by J Lasker

Albert Whitman & Company, 1987. **ISBN** 0807534226

This illustrated book tells the story of Howie, a child with cerebral palsy who wants to be able to move his wheelchair by himself.

Mama Zooms Cowen-Fletcher, J.*

Scholastic Inc. 1993 **ISBN** 0590728482

A beautifully illustrated book capturing the thrill a small child gets from travelling with her mother in her wheelchair, her “zooming machine”.

Michelle Finds a Voice Hollins S and Barnett S, illus D Redmond
1997 **ISBN** 1901242064

Michelle is a young woman with cerebral palsy who is unable to speak and so cannot communicate what she is thinking and feeling, to the very people who might help her. It illustrates what happens to Michelle and how she and her carers overcome these difficulties. The story is told through pictures alone, with blank pages to allow each reader to make his or her own interpretation of the story. Written text at the end provides one possible interpretation of the story.

(The CALL Centre is distributing this book on behalf of Communication Matters) see <http://callcentre.education.ed.ac.uk>

My Brother Matthew Thompson, M.

Woodbine House, 1992. **ISBN** 0933149476

In this illustrated children’s story, David tells what it is like to be the older brother of Matthew, who has physical and learning disabilities.

Princess Pooh Muldoon, K.M.* Illustrated by L Shute

Albert Whitman and Co. 1989 **ISBN** 0807566276

Patty-Jean is jealous of her sister, who uses a wheelchair and seems

to get lots of attention, but when Patty tries out her sister's wheelchair she finds it's not as much fun as she thought.

Sarah's Surprise Holcomb, N.*

Jason and Nordic Publishers. **ISBN** 0944727077

Six-year-old Sarah is unable to talk, but wants to sing "Happy Birthday". Sarah's speech therapist helps her progress from a picture board to an augmented communication device and then to a birthday surprise.

[Note there are a range of similar books in their Turtle Books range by this American publisher]

Seal Surfer Foreman, M.*

Andersen Press. 1996 **ISBN** 0862646855.

A children's story about a boy with a physical impairment who goes surfing.

Susan Laughs Willis, J. Illustrated by T Ross

Red Fox, 1994 **ISBN** 0099497566

Susan laughs, sings, rides and swings. In fact, Susan is no different to any other child until we turn to the last page and the reader realises that Susan uses a wheelchair.

Taking Cerebral Palsy to School Anderson, M E Illustrated by T Dineen

JayJo Books, 2000 **ISBN** 1891383086

Told through the eyes of the child with cerebral palsy, this book answers many of the questions his classmates have but may be too scared or uncomfortable to ask.

Tillie McGillie's Fantastical Chair French, V. Illustrated by S Heap

Walker Books, 1994 **ISBN** 0744530946

A story for younger children about a girl who uses a wheelchair that can fly.

Trouble for Letang and Julie Naidoo, B.

Longman, 1994. **ISBN** 0582121566

An illustrated children's story about two schoolgirls, one of whom has a physical impairment, and their experiences with the school hamster.

Two Left Feet Sullivan, J. Illustrated by G Howells

Pont, 1999. **ISBN** 1859026591

A book, with cartoon pictures, of a boy with cerebral palsy who, uses a wheeled frame and goes on a school trip.

Me and My Electric Laird, E. (Editor).

Mammoth, 1998. **ISBN** 0749729228

Eight short stories written by disabled children with impairments ranging from brittle bone disease to cerebral palsy. Each child has a well-known author to help with the writing; the stories are positive and fun (9+ years).

There are, in addition, many books - not included here - using animals and toys to explore issues around disability.

Non-fiction books for this age range include:

Who Cares About Disabled People? Adams, P.

Child's Play, 1995. [ISBN 0859533611](#)

This picture book for young children looks at different impairments and the lives of disabled people.

We Can Do It! Dwight, L.

Star Bright Books, 1997, [ISBN 1887734341](#).

A book, illustrated with photographs, for young children on different types of impairments.

Talk to Me Brearley, S.

A&C Black, 1989. [ISBN 0713631929](#)

A non-fiction book, illustrated with photographs, on communication impairments and different methods of communication.

I Have Cerebral Palsy Pettenuzzo, B.

Franklin Watts, 1988. [ISBN 0863136990](#)

This non-fiction book looks at the life of Maria, who is eight years old and has cerebral palsy, through experiences and photographs.

Additional sources of reading material and information

Bookmark books

This is a resource, run by Booktrust, which looks at issues around disability in children's books and offers information and signposting on the subject of reading disabilities, learning disabilities and books which are relevant to different impairments

www.bookmark.org.uk

Wordpool

A list of picture books that deal with different issues including disability for children under five years old.

www.wordpool.co.uk

Healthy books

A good list of children's books with informative abstracts, including the target age group.

www.healthybooks.org.uk/cgi-bin/get.pl?name=bookList&se=24

Happy Ever Afters **Saunders, K.**

London: Trentham Books, 2000. ISBN 185856 2139

This book offers advice to teachers on how to use children's fiction and can be used to teach disability equality to young people. Also includes bibliography of recommended story books.

The Alliance for Inclusive Education is a national network of families and groups who work together towards mainstream education for all children. Good list of resources, including resources aimed at parents and teachers

www.allfie.org.uk/pages/resources.htm

Barrington Stoke

www.barringtonstoke.co.uk

Barrington Stoke publishes books for children who are unable or reluctant to read fiction for pleasure. All books are for children between the ages of 8 and 13 with a reading age of 8+. The books use accessible language, have fast-moving and unambiguous plots and clear presentation with short chapters and illustrations on every page.

Community Insight

Email: books@c-insight.demon.co.uk

www.c-insight.demon.co.uk

Community Insight supplies books relevant to children aged 0-6, including those with special needs. These include books which explain or show disabilities, bereavement, lone parenting as well as books aimed at education professionals working with disabled children, such as good practice, creative play, working with families etc.

Letterbox Library

www.letterboxlibrary.com

A children's book club specialising in books with multi-cultural, non-sexist and multi-social content, including books containing positive images of disability.

Bag Books

www.bagbooks.org

A charity producing multi-sensory stories packaged in boxes – not bags. Aimed at involving the listener to feel, hear, smell or look as the story unfolds. Suitable for small groups as well as one to one. Costs to parents are less than for organisations.

Explaining the Social Model of Disability

Winnie the Witch Thomas, V & Korkey, P (Illustrator)

Oxford University Press, 1989 **ISBN** 0192721976

Although this book was not written with the aim of illustrating and explaining the social model of disability, some people have found this picture book an enjoyable and visual way of getting the meaning across to children. Winnie keeps losing her cat. He's so black that wherever he goes in Winnie's black house she cannot see him. The answer is to change the cat's colour, but this leads to all sorts of

misadventures until finally the solution is found ... change the colour of the house!

Thanks to Kathy Saunders for this suggestion.

This document is for information purposes only.

For more information about cerebral palsy and Scope services

Contact Scope's Cerebral Palsy Helpline for information, advice and support. Copies of all Scope's information sheets can be downloaded from the website or obtained from the Helpline. Referrals to Scope's Community Teams and services can be made through the Helpline.

The Helpline hours are:

Monday - Friday 9 am to 9 pm. Weekends 2 pm to 6 pm

Cerebral Palsy Helpline

PO Box 833

Milton Keynes

MK12 5NY

Tel: 0808 800 3333

Fax: 01908 321051

Email: cphelpline@scope.org.uk

Scope's website address is www.scope.org.uk

Scope acknowledges the help and support of everyone who has been involved in the production of this information.

This information can be made available in other formats if required eg. large print or tape. We also have information about Scope and cerebral palsy available in 13 languages on audiotape and can offer a telephone interpreting service to people whose preferred language is not English.

Please contact Scope's Cerebral Palsy Helpline for more details of these services.

© We are happy for you to make photocopies of any part of this document. However, we would be grateful if you would attach an acknowledgement of the source to any copies.