

Since We're Friends: An Autism Picture Book

Reading Guide

Author: Celeste Shally Illustrator: David Harrington

Themes: autism education, friendship, response to differences, empathy

Lesson/Notes: Informational forward to this book is written by Alison Singer of Autism Speaks. Sometimes children with autism have a difficult time making friends. This story pictures two friends, one of whom has autism, to help children learn to befriend people even if they are different.

Discussion Questions

- *What bothers Matt? (loud gym, person on favorite swing - unexpected change in routine, kids take toys, etc.)*
- *What does Matt like? (animals, spending time with friends)*
- *Can you be friends with someone who is different from you? (yes)*
- *How is the narrator a good friend to Matt? (helps him in basketball, talks about animals, problem solves, plays with him, think of fun ideas, includes him in tag)*

Activity: Find a New Friend

- *Find a peer who is different from you in some way. Try to find someone you have not played with before. Ask him/her to play with you.*
 - *Say, "Would you like to [play tag, draw with chalk, play basketball]?"*
 - *If they say "no", that's okay. Just try asking someone else.*
- *If no peers are available, role play with adult.*