Special Needs
Books available at the Columbus Metropolitan Library

PICTURE BOOKS

Aaron Slater, Illustrator by Andrea Beaty, 2021
When Miss Greer asks each child in the class to write a story, second-grader Aaron, who loves to draw but struggles with reading, creates a story using pictures. Printed in a type font designed for readers with dyslexia. (Grades K-2)

I Will Dance by Nancy Bo Flood, 2020
Eva’s cerebral palsy makes it difficult for her to do many things, but she longs to dance and, finally, her dream is realized. (Grades PreK-3)

What Happened to You? by James Catchpole, 2021
Constantly seen first for his disability, Joe is fed up of only ever being asked about his leg. All he wants to do is play Pirates. This book teaches us all what’s actually important when we make a new friend: seeing them for who they are on the inside. (Grades PreK-3)

My City Speaks by Darren Lebeuf, 2021
A young girl, who is visually impaired, finds much to celebrate as she explores the city she loves. (Grades PreK-2)

When Charley Met Emma by Amy Webb, 2019
When Charley goes to the playground and sees Emma, a girl with limb differences who gets around in a wheelchair, he doesn’t know how to react at first. But after he and Emma start talking, he learns that different isn’t bad, sad, or strange—different is just different, and different is great! (Grades PreK-K)

JUVENILE FICTION

A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicoll, 2021
Addie learns what it means to be an upstander when she sets out to encourage her Scottish town to memorialize women who were branded as witches throughout history. Perceptive Addie is autistic and deeply empathetic, drawing parallels between the way society treats these so-called “witches” and the way she’s bullied while struggling with feelings of being an outsider. (Grades 4-7)

Show Me a Sign by Ann Clare LeZotte, 2021
It is 1805 and Mary Lambert has always felt safe among the deaf community of Chilmark on Martha’s Vineyard where practically everyone communicates in a shared sign language, but recent events have shattered her life. (Grades 3-7)
Tune It Out by Jamie Sumner, 2021
From the author of the acclaimed Roll with It comes a moving novel about a girl with a sensory processing disorder who has to find her own voice after her whole world turns upside down. (Grades 5-6).

TEEN

One for All by Lillie Lainoff, 2022
In 17th-century France, a chronically ill girl vows to avenge her father's murder. An insightful, affirming tale of swordplay and sisterhood. (Grades 7-12)

The Silence Between Us by Alison Gervais, 2022
Maya has reservations about transferring to a hearing school after studying in a school for the deaf for years, but grows closer to Beau Watson, the student body president, who starts learning sign language to communicate with her. (Grades 7-12)

Breathe and Count Back from Ten by Natalia Sylvester, 2022
Maya has reservations about transferring to a hearing school after studying in a school for the deaf for years, but grows closer to Beau Watson, the student body president, who starts learning sign language to communicate with her. (Grades 7-12)

NON-FICTION

All the Way to the Top: How One Girl's Fight for Americans with Disabilities Changed Everything by Annette Bay Pimentel, 2020
Jennifer knew that everyone deserves a voice! Then the Americans with Disabilities Act, a law that would make public spaces much more accessible to people with disabilities, was proposed to Congress. And to make sure it passed, Jennifer went to the steps of the Capitol building in Washington DC to convince them. And, without her wheelchair, she climbed. ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP! (Grade K-4)

Disability Visibility (Adapted for Young Adults): 17 First-Person Stories for Today by Alice Wong, 2021
The seventeen eye-opening essays in Disability Visibility, all written by disabled people, offer keen insight into the complex and rich disability experience, examining life's ableism and inequality, its challenges and losses, and celebrating its wisdom, passion, and joy. (Grades 7-9)

Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You by Sonia Sotomayor, 2019
In this picture book by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, children of different abilities work together to build a community garden. Inspired by Justice Sotomayor's childhood experience with diabetes. (Grades PreK-3)

We Move Together by Kelly Fritsch, 2021
We Move Together follows a mixed-ability group of kids as they creatively negotiate everyday barriers, and find joy and connection in disability culture and community. (Grades 1-2)