

Anne

The Animated Series

EDUCATOR'S
GUIDE
EPISODE #4





THE BEST PARTNER - EPISODE #4

When Mr. Gresham's nephew Ben visits Avonlea, all the kids are excited about his arrival; especially, as it coincides with a sports day. To their surprise, Ben arrives in crutches; polio has left him paralyzed. With empathy and creativity shown on both sides, the children learn to fully welcome Ben into the group and the games as a valuable partner.

Learning Objective

Empathy requires practice, exploration and modelling. Learning to put one in someone else's shoes will help strengthen:

Social/Emotional Skills

Critical Thinking/Problem Solving Skills

Talking About the Episode

- What does it mean to be differently labelled? Does anyone here know someone who is in a wheelchair? Or blind? Or deaf? What can you tell us about it?
- How are people with disabilities like you? How are they different than you?
- In this story, Ben was in a wheelchair, but he still got to participate in the Avonlea games, how?

Access for Everyone

An important part of understanding differences is demystification: acquiring information and getting questions answered. Invite a discussion about why schools and buildings have wheelchair ramps and parking spots reserved near entrances. Show the wheelchair symbol for *Disabled* and talk about where they might see this sign: entrances, parking spaces, bathroom stalls, grocery store check-out aisles, etc.

Use the American with Disabilities Act to launch a worthwhile discussion about differently labelled individuals. Why is this important legislation? Who does it help? Why do some people need a helping hand?

Encourage children to access their own school or neighbourhood. How easy would it be for someone in a wheelchair to get to school? To a park? To class? To the cafeteria? To the playground?



THE BEST PARTNER - EPISODE #4 (CONTINUED)

A Turn for Everyone

Children develop skills and success at different rates and different times. In a classroom full of children or at home with a busy pace, it can be difficult to allow children the time they need to complete a task-especially if it's a new skill-when time is short.

Take Time!

In a classroom, create two lines of children-with children facing one another-and kick a ball (or toss a bean bag, snap a lid on a jar, zip a zipper, etc) back and forth and down the line. At home, make fun out of practicing the skills that take your children the most time: tying shoes, putting storybooks on a shelf, etc.

www.childrenwithdisabilities.ncjrs.org/

What do Albert Einstein, Winston Churchill, Walt Disney and Tom Cruise have in common? Each learned to cope with a learning disability! Check out the Children with Disabilities website (above) for ideas and activities to help children understand what it means to live with a disability. The section entitled *Youth to Youth* includes downloadable activities including an insightful celebrity quiz.