



The British Columbia Lions Society
For Children with Disabilities



National AccessAbility Week Elementary Lesson Resources

National AccessAbility Week is a campaign to celebrate Canadians with disabilities and raise awareness of the critical need for accessibility and inclusion for all in our communities and workplaces.

2025 Theme: Applying inclusive thinking and actions in everyday life.

Objective: Easter Seals BC/Yukon invites you to take part in the conversation about accessibility and inclusion happening this spring.

Other Important Dates:

May 1 – Deadline for Easter Seals NAAW Design Contest submissions

May 25 - 31 – National AccessAbility Week

May 28 – Red Shirt Day

May 29 – Webinar with Easter Seals BC/Yukon and Rick Hansen Foundation

*Original lesson plan submitted by Alexis Wardle from the Surrey School District in collaboration with Easter Seals BC/Yukon.

About Easter Seals BC/Yukon

For over 75 years, [Easter Seals BC/Yukon](#) has been dedicated to enhancing the quality of life, self-esteem, and independence of individuals with disabilities. Through the Easter Seals House, summer camps and other specialized programs and services, we help break down barriers and help create a more inclusive, accessible, and equitable society, empowering our community to grow and thrive.

Sample Classroom Activities:

1. Easter Seals BC/Yukon Tote Bag Design Contest:

- [Explain the contest and its theme](#) (additional information provided in a separate document).
- Have students draw their own designs on paper, focusing on inclusive messages and images.
- Students can share their designs with the class and their interpretations of inclusivity in the classroom and in the community.
- Winning students receive \$200 honorarium and \$750 for the winning student's classroom to purchase learning materials.

Charity Registration No. 119217248RR0001
3981 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC V5H 4H5
www.EasterSealsBCY.ca

Easter Seals BC/Yukon is a service of the BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities

2. Introduction to Disabilities:

- Read a storybook featuring a character with a disability.
- Discuss the story and ask students how the character might feel and what challenges they face.

3. Understanding Inclusion:

- Watch a short video about disabilities and inclusion.
- Discuss what inclusion means to each student and to the wider community and why it's important to think about inclusion.

4. Inclusive Actions:

- Brainstorm ways to be inclusive in the classroom and playground.
- Create a class poster with these ideas.

5. Understanding Accessibility:

- Talk about the challenges
- [Rick Hansen Foundation resources on physical disabilities](#)

6. Reflection:

- Have students share their designs and explain how they represent inclusion.
- Discuss how they can apply what they've learned in their daily lives.

Storybook examples:

1. **My Friend Isabelle** by **Eliza Woloson**: Written by Isabelle's mother, this charming tale encourages readers to think about what makes a friendship special.
2. **"The Christmasaurus"** by **Tom Fletcher**: This festive tale follows William Trundle, a dinosaur-obsessed boy who uses a wheelchair, as he embarks on an adventure to see Santa Claus
3. **"My Brother Charlie"** by **Holly Robinson Peete and Ryan Elizabeth Peete**: This book is based on Ryan's experience growing up with her autistic twin brother, Charlie
4. **"Ali and the Sea Stars"** by **Ali Stroker**: The story centers on an ambitious girl in a wheelchair who puts on a play for her hometown
5. **"Uniquely Me"** by **Trace Wilson**: Inspired by the author's own experience, this book tells the story of a brave young boy who learns to embrace and love his limb difference
6. **"Looking After Louis"** by **Lesley Ely**: This book shows how inclusive classrooms benefit both disabled and non-disabled children through the story of Louis, a boy with autism

Video Examples

1. "Just Like You Series"

Just Like You Films is a nonprofit film production company creating powerful tools in the drive for acceptance. <https://www.youtube.com/@JustLikeYouFilms>

2. "See what children with disabilities can do"

Emphasizes the importance of focusing on their abilities rather than their disabilities. The video aims to promote a positive image of these children and advocate for their inclusion and participation in society, ensuring they enjoy their rights as children

[See what children with disabilities can do](#)

3. "FairnSquare: Making the World Better for Kids with Disabilities":

This animated video by Handicap International Mozambique and UNICEF teaches children how to make the world more inclusive for kids with disabilities

[FairnSquare: Making the World Better for Kids with Disabilities":.](#)

4. "Kids Talk About Inclusion":

In this video, children answer questions about inclusion, sharing their thoughts and experiences

[Kids Talk About Inclusion.](#)

5. "Amazing Things Happen":

This animation by Alexander Amelines introduces autism to young audiences, aiming to raise awareness and promote understanding

[Amazing Things Happen](#)

Easter Seals BC/Yukon Stories

1) Angus' Big Camp Adventure

Angus was 12 years old when he first heard about Easter Seals Camp. His parents, Laura and Mike, thought it could be the perfect place for him to have fun, make friends, and try new things. But there was one big problem—Angus had never stayed away from home for more than a night or two. The idea of going to a sleepaway camp made him nervous.

At first, Angus said he didn't want to go. His parents showed him videos and pictures of all the fun activities, but he still wasn't sure. Then, one day during school, he had a new thought. "I've been thinking a lot about camp," he told his mom. "I think I'd like to go."

So, Angus signed up for a special weekend just for new campers to see what camp life was like. His parents felt a little nervous when they dropped him off, but the camp staff were so friendly and welcoming that they knew he was in good hands.

At Camp Shawnigan, Angus had the time of his life! He bounced on the trampoline, dressed up in silly costumes, and even won the "Best Performer" award for his amazing costume contest skills. The camp counselors were always there to help. When Angus felt uneasy on his first night, they stayed with him until he felt comfortable. When mealtimes felt overwhelming, they sat with him outside so he could eat in a calm space.

By the end of the week, something had changed in Angus. He felt more confident and excited to try new things. "If I go on to do great things in my life, it will be because of that camp," he said.

The next summer, Angus went back—this time for two camps! One was a regular overnight camp, and the other was a special **Autism** camp where he got to meet other kids just like him.

For Angus, Easter Seals Camp wasn't just a fun summer trip—it was the start of something amazing.

Comprehension Questions:

- 1) Why was Angus nervous about going to Easter Seals Camp?
- 2) How did the camp counselors help Angus feel comfortable?
- 3) What changes did Angus notice in himself by the end of camp?
- 4) Why did Angus decide to return to camp the following summer?
- 5) What do you think Angus meant when he said, "If I go on to do great things in my life, it will be because of that camp"?
- 6) How do you think attending a camp like Easter Seals helps kids gain confidence?

2) King Jared Cools Down Camp

Every summer, campers at Easter Seals Camp have a blast—laughing, making friends, and trying new things. And for Jared, camp is his favorite place in the world! He has been going for over 13 years, always arriving with a big smile and ready for adventure.

Jared loves the wide-open spaces at Camp Squamish, but his favorite spot is the big treehouse. He calls it his Kingdom, and his friends even started calling him **King Jared!** He proudly wears his crown all around camp.

But something was making camp tricky—**the cabins were getting way too hot in the summer!** Jared brought a fan to cool down at night, but it wasn't enough. He knew that future campers would need a more comfortable place to sleep, so he came up with a plan.

Jared and his mom, Barb, asked the Easter Seals team how they could help bring **air conditioning** to the cabins. Jared wanted to give back to the place that helped him grow. When he was 11, he came to camp with a support worker because he needed help with daily tasks. But after two years, he became so independent that he didn't need one anymore! Now, he wanted to help others have the best camp experience, just like he did.

Jared's plan was simple—a **bottle drive!** He already collected cans and bottles to earn extra money, so he thought, why not use them to help camp? He asked friends and family to save their recyclables and even invited people to donate online if they wanted to help in another way.

Starting in January 2024, Jared worked hard, sorting bottles late into the night. After just four weeks, he reached his goal of **\$5,000!** Thanks to Jared and his amazing supporters, Camp Squamish will be much cooler this summer—**and not just because of King Jared's crown!**

Comprehension Questions:

- 1) What problem did Jared notice about the camp cabins during the summer?
- 2) How did Jared and his mom work together to solve the cabin cooling issue?
- 3) What creative fundraising idea did Jared come up with to help improve the cabins?
- 4) How did Jared's early experiences at camp influence his decision to help improve it for future campers?
- 5) What role did Jared's family, friends, and the broader community play in his project?
- 6) What lesson about giving back and problem-solving can we learn from Jared's story?
- 7) If you wanted to raise money for a cause, what creative ideas would you use?