



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.

2026 Theme: Reimagining Play, Learning, and Community Through Accessibility

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 31 – June 6 – National AccessAbility Week

June 2 – NAAW conference hosted online by Easter Seals Canada

June 3 – Red Shirt Day

*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 79 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 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.

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

Ella's Big Camp Adventure

Twelve-year-old Ella lives in Squamish with her parents and her 15-year-old brother, Luke. When she was three, she was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder that affects how she learns and moves. Later, she was also diagnosed with autism. Ella's life includes helpful routines, therapies, and lots of family support. Her favourite weekly activity is therapeutic horseback riding, where she gets to see her friend Hannah, who she looks up to like a teacher. Ella is curious, observant, and enjoys listening to the world around her. Her mother's family is from Quebec, so Ella speaks both French and English with confidence.

When Ella went to Easter Seals Camp for the first time at age 11, her parents were nervous. It was her first time sleeping away from home, and they worried about how she would communicate and take care of herself without them. The first day was hard, but Ella soon settled in. What mattered most was that camp had no pressure to perform. Campers were free to join in however felt right for them, whether watching, cheering, or taking part. Ella felt accepted, safe, and like she truly belonged.

Camp also made a difference for Ella's family. While Ella spent a week at Camp Winfield, her parents took Luke camping on his own, giving them special one-on-one time together. Luke and Ella sometimes argue like many siblings do, but he is very protective of her and helps care for her after school. Knowing Ella was happy and well supported helped her parents feel more at ease.

The confidence Ella gained at camp now shows up in her everyday life. Her parents feel comfortable letting her try things they once thought were out of reach, including an upcoming multi-day school trip to Manning Park. That growing trust and independence began at camp.

Today, Easter Seals Camp is the highlight of Ella's year. She talks about it often, looks at photos, and even says she misses it while on family trips. Her speech has grown stronger, her confidence has deepened, and she is proud to have something that is her own. For Ella and her family, camp is more than just a week away. It opened doors and created space for confidence, independence, and joy.

Comprehension Questions:

- 1) What challenges does Ella face, and how do her family and activities support her?
- 2) Why were Ella's parents nervous about her going to camp for the first time?
- 3) What made Easter Seals Camp a place where Ella felt she belonged?
- 4) How did Ella going to camp affect her brother Luke and her parents?
- 5) What changes do we see in Ella by the end of the story, and what helped make those changes possible?

A Safe Place to Grow: Alia's Easter Seals Camp Story

Alia was 12 years old when she first arrived at Easter Seals Camp Winfield. Now 16 and in high school, she has grown into a confident teenager who looks forward to camp every year. Alia loves books, music, and art, especially Japanese art and pop culture. Spending a week at camp is the highlight of her year and one of the few places where she can truly be herself, surrounded by friendship, laughter, and fun.

Alia was born with a rare chromosomal duplication and is diagnosed with autism. She needs ongoing support in her daily life, so the idea of an overnight camp felt intimidating for her family. Trusting others with her care was hard at first. That fear slowly turned into comfort as they met camp staff and learned about the programs through New Camper Camp.

At camp, Alia loves the water slide, cabin sleepovers, and the talent show, where she once danced dressed as a butterfly. Camp is fun, but it also helps her build independence. Away from her parents, Alia practices managing her routines, getting her own meals, and taking her medication. Her parents are proud to see how capable she is. Her mom, Amy, shares that camp helps Alia grow more independent while giving the family peace of mind.

Alia's time at camp helps her family feel hopeful about the future. They dream of Alia having a job one day and living as independently as possible in their basement suite. Camp helps build the skills and confidence that make those goals feel possible.

Comprehension Questions:

- 1) What are some of Alia's interests, and why is camp important to her?
- 2) Why did Alia's family feel nervous about sending her to overnight camp?
- 3) What activities does Alia enjoy at camp, and what do they help her learn?
- 4) How does camp help Alia become more independent?
- 5) How does Alia's story help us understand why safe and supportive spaces matter for people with disabilities?