

bits & pieces

Children's Book Series Focuses on "Differently-abled" Children

In 2006, Richard A. O'Brien, whose son Connor has cerebral palsy, was inspired to write a series of books that revolve around five differently-abled kids who solve mysteries with the help of typically developing kids. The main character, CJ or Connor James, has cerebral palsy and the rest of the "Angel Kids" are portrayed with other special needs: Andy with Autism; Dee-Dee with Down Syndrome; Rosie with Stuttering ; and Stu with Dyslexia. This first book "CJ and the Angel Kids" was released in 2014.

There are now six books in the series. Each book addresses a different subject such as awareness (book 1); bullying (book 2); childhood obesity (book 3); dyslexia (book 4); autism (book 5); and sensory processing issues (book 6). Mr. O'Brien is careful to portray the "Angel Kids" as positive role models for all differently-abled kids. Other book contributors include a speech therapist and occupational therapist providing credibility, real life experiences, and how these differently-abled or "Angel Kids" are seen in the real world.

"With God as the driver for the books, we believe we have written a series of books that will inspire and educate not only children from Kindergarten through sixth grade but also adults" says O'Brien. "Our mission is to increase awareness that differently-abled children want to be accepted for their special abilities and to be included in all activities with typically developing children. They just want to be kids." Each book also provides a Glossary of Terms and additional websites for increasing awareness. All profits from the sale of the books on Amazon.com will go to local charities, including United Cerebral Palsy of Mobile, AL, Down Syndrome, Dyslexia and Autism.

O'Brien states, "With the help of God and inspiration from Connor, as well as other differently-abled kids, we have a series of books that could be "game changers" for how kids with special needs are portrayed in life and show that they are just kids-- they want to have fun like everyone else."

CJ and the Angel Kids™

The Case of the Missing Cookies

Written by Richard A. O'Brien and Andrea W. Poirer
Illustrations by Morgan Mabey

