

## Picture books about children with disabilities

Collected by Heather M. O'Connor, author of Fast Friends

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Illustrator</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Exceptionality</b>	<b>Blurb</b>
<b><i>Fast Friends</i></b>	Heather M. O'Connor	Claudia Davila	PB	Scholastic Canada	2020	Canadian, nonverbal, global delays, mobility	Suze, the new girl, is nonverbal with special needs. Tyson takes the time to interpret her cues. He forms a special friendship with Suze, and teaches his classmates what it means to listen and understand others.
<b><i>This Beach Is Loud</i></b>	Samantha Cotterill	Samantha Cotterill	PB	Penguin Random House	2019	sensory issues/autism spectrum	Patience, understanding, and a soothing exercise saves the beach day when excitement turns to sensory overload.
<b><i>Too Sticky!: Sensory Issues With Autism</i></b>	Jen Malia	Joanne Lew-Vriethoff	PB	Albert Whitman & Co	2020	autism	Holly loves doing experiments and learning new things in science class! But when she finds out the next experience is making slime, she's worried. Holly has sensory issues because of her autism and doesn't like anything sticky!
<b><i>The Pros and Cons of Being a Frog</i></b>	Sue DeGennero	Sue DeGennero	PB	Simon & Schuster	2016	autism	Two shy kids discover the power of friendship in this charming picture book that celebrates being different.
<b><i>Be a Friend</i></b>	Salina Yoon	Salina Yoon	PB	Bloomsbury USA	2016	autism	Dennis is an ordinary boy who expresses himself in extraordinary ways. Some children do show-and-tell. Dennis mimes his. Some children climb trees. Dennis is happy to BE a tree . . . But being a mime can be lonely. It isn't until Dennis meets a girl named Joy that he discovers the power of friendship--and how special he truly is!
<b><i>Rock and Roll Woods</i></b>	Sherry Howard	Anika A. Wolf	PB	Spork	2018	sensory integration	Kuda doesn't like change. So when he wakes up to new neighbors and loud, strange noises, he is not happy. His desire for friendship helps him discover that new things and rock and roll music can be pretty great. Helpful back matter about Sensory Integration and insider jokes for parents with autistic kids.
<b><i>Benji, the Bad Day, and Me</i></b>	Sally J. Pla	Ken Min	PB	Lee & Low	2018	autism	Sammy has a bad day at school. His autistic little brother Benji is having a bad day, too. If only he had a special space, like Benji does, to make him feel cozy and safe.
<b><i>You Can't Invite a Fish to a Dance Party</i></b>	Jessica Williams	Jimena de la Vega	PB	All Write Here Publishing	2019	inclusion	A group of well-meaning pets exclude a friend from their plans. shows that everyone can be part of the fun, no matter their circumstances.

I love doing events and in-person or virtual school visits.

Contact me at [heather@heathermoconnor.com](mailto:heather@heathermoconnor.com).

## Picture books about children with disabilities

Collected by Heather M. O'Connor, author of *Fast Friends*

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Illustrator</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Exceptionality</b>	<b>Blurb</b>
<b><i>Anxious Charlie to the Rescue</i></b>	Terry Milne	Terry Milne	PB	Candlewick	2019	anxiety	Charlie follows the same routine every day: he hops out of bed in the morning, walks the same route to the market, and lines up his stuffed animals just so in the evening. But when friends call one morning asking for Charlie's help, he forgets to follow his usual routine.
<b><i>Maybe Tomorrow?</i></b>	Charlotte Agell	Ana Ramirez Gonzalez	PB	Scholastic Press	2019	grief	Elba has a black block. She's been dragging it around for a long time. Norris dances everywhere he goes, even uphill. He is always surrounded by a happy cloud of butterflies. Can Norris and his butterflies lighten Elba's load and convince her to join them on a trip to the ocean? A tender exploration of loss, and how kindness and friendship can help us heal.
<b><i>Zoom!</i></b>	Robert Munsch	Michael Martchenko	PB	Scholastic Canada	2004	Canadian, mobility	Young daredevil Lauretta puts her brand-new wheelchair to the ultimate test--and saves her brother!
<b><i>My Name Is Blessing</i></b>	Eric Walters	Eugenie Fernandes	PB	Tundra	2013	Canadian, mobility	Based on the life of a real boy, this warm-hearted, beautifully illustrated book tells the story of Baraka, a young Kenyan boy with a physical disability.
<b><i>Away</i></b>	Emil Sher	Qin Leng	PB	Groundwood	2017	Canadian, hearing loss	Love shines through in the sticky notes shared between a mother and daughter in this picture book about making time for family in the midst of our busy lives.
<b><i>Susan Laughs</i></b>	Jeanne Willis	Tony Ross	PB	Henry Holt	2000	mobility	Told in rhyme, this story follows Susan through a series of familiar activities. Not until the end of the story is it revealed that Susan uses a wheelchair.

I love doing events and in-person or virtual school visits.

Contact me at [heather@heathermoconnor.com](mailto:heather@heathermoconnor.com).