

CELEBRATE 3.21 • LIBRARIES

Library & Story Time Kit

Stories where everyone belongs



For public and school libraries: ways to celebrate, an inclusive book list, a 30-minute story time plan, a sensory-friendly setup, event and social copy, a community sock art wall, and a display sign.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Ways to take part | 2 Book list |
| 3 Story time plan | 4 Sensory-friendly tips |
| 5 Event & social copy | 6 Display sign |

START HERE

How libraries can show up

Libraries are where kids first meet characters who look and live like them. 3.21 Week is a perfect time to celebrate belonging.

STORY TIME

- Inclusive read-aloud (plan on page 3)
- Sock craft
- Sock-hop song
- Families in fun socks

DISPLAYS

- “Different Looks Good Here” book display
- Community sock art wall
- Poster and fact sheet
- Staff picks

PROGRAMS

- Teen volunteer sock-decorating table
- Family meet-up with DSACO
- Sensory-friendly hour
- Adult book club on belonging

BOOK LIST TO START WITH

TITLE	AUTHOR	AGES
We're All Wonders	R. J. Palacio	Ages 3-7
All Are Welcome	Alexandra Penfold	Ages 3-7
Just Ask!	Sonia Sotomayor	Ages 4-8
The Day You Begin	Jacqueline Woodson	Ages 5-8
Different Is Awesome!	Nicole Carrel	Ages 4-8
Wonder	R. J. Palacio	Ages 8-12
Out of My Mind	Sharon M. Draper	Ages 10-14
[Add a picture book featuring a character with Down syndrome]		

Books about differences and belonging. Preview every title and choose what fits your community; ask local families for favorites featuring characters with Down syndrome.

30 MINUTES

Inclusive story time plan

For ages 3–7. Works in the library, at a school, or at a community event.

PLAN

1

Welcome & sock parade (5 min)

Everyone shows off their socks. Count the colors!

2

Book 1 (7 min)

A picture book about differences and belonging.

3

Wiggle song (3 min)

“If you’re wearing silly socks, wiggle your toes!”

4

Book 2 (7 min)

A second, shorter book.

5

Sock craft (8 min)

Decorate a paper sock (Create Your Own Fun Sock printable).

TALK ABOUT IT

- “What makes you special?”
- “How can we help a new friend feel welcome?”
- “Why do you think we wear different socks?”

MAKE IT SENSORY-FRIENDLY

- Carpet squares or cushions
- Fidgets available
- It’s OK to move around
- A quiet corner nearby
- Picture schedule of the story time

SUPPLIES

- ☐ 2 books
- ☐ Sock printables & crayons
- ☐ Stickers
- ☐ Spare fun socks for the parade

Say it simply: “Some of our friends have Down syndrome. That means they have an extra chromosome, a tiny part inside our bodies. On 3/21, people all over the world celebrate them!”

FOR OLDER KIDS (AGES 8–12)

- Read a chapter from a book on the list
- Talk: what does belonging look like at school?
- Make a “welcome” card for a new student

INVITE A GUEST READER

A self-advocate, a local firefighter in fun socks, or the Mayor. Ask families ahead of time who might like to read.

COPY & PASTE

Emails, announcements & posts

Ready-to-use text. Replace anything in [brackets].

EVENT LISTING

“Rock Your Socks Story Time · [date, time].
Celebrate World Down Syndrome Day with stories, songs, and a sock craft! Wear your silliest socks. Ages 3–7. Free.”

SOCIAL POST

“Our shelves are celebrating 3.21! Stop by our ‘Different Looks Good Here’ display and grab a book about belonging. #Celebrate321
#WorldDownSyndromeDay”

NEWSLETTER

“This March, the library joins Celebrate 3.21 for World Down Syndrome Day, with a book display, a Rock Your Socks story time on [date], and a community sock art wall. Everyone belongs here!”

DISPLAY SIGN

“Different looks good here. Books about belonging, friendship, and celebrating every person.”

COMMUNITY SOCK ART WALL

Put out paper sock cutouts and markers. Visitors decorate a sock and add it to the wall. Watch it grow all week!

PHOTOS & PERMISSION

- Feet photos are easy and private
- Ask before posting any face
- Never post children without a parent’s OK
- Let people with Down syndrome tell their own story

HASHTAGS

#Celebrate321

#WorldDownSyndromeDay

#RockYourSocks

#CanalWinchester

PHOTOS & PERMISSION

- Feet photos are easy and private
- Ask before posting any face
- Never post children without a parent’s OK
- Let people with Down syndrome tell their own story

WORDS THAT WORK

- “Person with Down syndrome” (or ask what they prefer)
- “Has Down syndrome,” not “suffers from”
- Celebrate and belong, not pity
- Never the r-word



CELEBRATE **3.21**

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY • 3.21

Different looks good here.

Books about belonging, friendship, and celebrating
every person.

#Celebrate321 #WorldDownSyndromeDay

