

# Peer information sheet: physical disability

All of us are unique. We all have strengths, and we all have areas where we are still learning. We are all born with different hair, eyes, personality, and fingerprints. We can always find something we have in common with someone else like an interest, hobby, or activity we enjoy.

Some students have physical disability. Just like hair, eyes or fingerprints, this is a part of them, but not who they are. When you take the time to get to know them, you'll find there are lots of things you have in common.

## About physical disability

Students with physical disability may learn well with visual materials, such as pictures, and they might be good at setting goals and working hard to achieve them. They might find movement, balancing, writing, or talking tricky, depending on which part of their body is affected.

### Moving around at school

Some students with physical disability might get tired at school. They might walk a little differently, or they might use a frame or wheelchair to move around. They might find drawing, tying up shoelaces or other activities where they need to use their fingers difficult. You can help by staying with them when walking somewhere instead of rushing ahead. You can help by carrying their books for them if they would like your help. You can help by keeping your classroom and other areas tidy so that they can move around safely.

### Talking

Some students with physical disability might not use words to talk. They might use pictures, hand or head signals, or a computer to talk. They like to talk and play with other students – you can help by learning how to understand them. Your teacher can tell you how to talk with a student with physical disability in your class.

### Play

Students with physical disability like to join in games and have friends – just like all students. Games that have lots of running or movement might be tricky for them. You can help by choosing games that include everybody, or by thinking of ways to change the game to include everyone (like having two goalies when playing soccer).

### School Learning Support Officer (SLSO)

Some students with physical disability might work with an SLSO in the classroom. You can still talk and work with them when the SLSO is there. After all – an SLSO is not quite the same as having a friend the same age to talk to during class

### Just like you

Students with physical disability have lots of ways in which they're just like you. They can feel happy, sad, excited, or worried – just like you. They are learning, growing and exploring – just like you. And they like having friends, going to parties, and being included – just like you.

