

### How the Book Project Began

The NDSC Self-Advocate Book Project began in 2002 when Tracy Hile introduced the idea to the NDSC Board of Directors. The Book Project was proposed as a fundraising and community service project for the Self-Advocate Council. Through the program, self-advocates would raise money to purchase books that positively portray individuals with Down syndrome. They would present the books each year to libraries and schools in the host community of the annual NDSC convention.

Besides creating a fundraising and community service project, the Self Advocate Council identified several other goals of the Book Project:

- A means to educate the public about the abilities of self-advocates
- A way for self-advocates to raise disability awareness for students K-12
- To provide self-advocates leadership opportunities
- To show communities how to become a more inclusive place for people with Down syndrome

### How You Can Help

- We are always searching for books that positively portray people with Down syndrome. If you know of a book that you believe would be a good addition to the Book Project list, please email us at [info@ndsccenter.org](mailto:info@ndsccenter.org).
- Each year during the NDSC Convention registration, we ask that you choose to add \$1 or more to your registration fees to be donated to the Self-Advocate Book Project. It is as simple as checking a box!
- You may also choose to receive a "bundle" of books. Every \$100 donation will receive a bundle that includes one copy of each book included in this year's Project bundle. These books make excellent donations for World Down Syndrome Day on 3/21 or Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October.
- We [accept donations](#) for the Book Project year-round. Credit card payments can be processed on the NDSC website or by calling the NDSC Center at 770-604-9500. Checks should be made payable to *NDSC* and mailed to the NDSC Center at:  
30 Mansell Court  
Suite 108  
Roswell, GA 30076

Please include *Book Project* in the memo line so that your donation may be appropriately allocated. Thank you in advance for supporting the NDSC Self-Advocate Book Project.

## Current NDSC Self-Advocate Book Project List

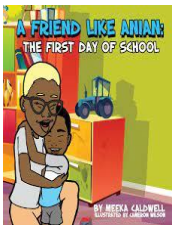
We are continually evaluating books to include in each year's Book Project List. We look for books that provide a variety of age-level content, quality writing, overall appearance, and of course, that positively portray people with Down syndrome. The books currently included in the Self Advocate Book Project list include:



### ABC Building Blocks for Growing Up With Down Syndrome

**Author:** Meredith Martin

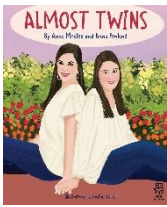
Whether the individual is two or thirty-two, it's never too late to work on independent living skills. Self-advocate Meredith Martin developed a blueprint to living independently with Down syndrome using the 26 letters of the alphabet to showcase the skills necessary for successful experiences when living on her own.



### A Friend Like Anian: The First Day of School

**Author:** Meeka Caldwell

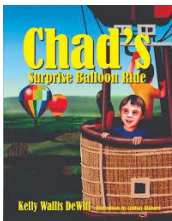
Anian is a little scared about his first day of Kindergarten, but with the help of his teachers and new friends, it's not so bad after all. Anian is a wonderful little boy loved by all in his community. He likes to play and make new friends, among other things. He also has Down Syndrome. Because he was born with a little extra, he sometimes needs a little extra help. Follow Anian as his friends help him learn and grow!



### Almost Twins

**Authors:** Anna Moates & Anna Penland

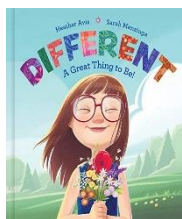
From the moment Anna and Anna met at Auburn University, they realized they had so much in common and HAD to call each other "twin." Many people celebrate that people are all the same, but the twins respectfully disagree- which is why this duo dubbed themselves as the Almost Twins signifying the beautiful difference in not only someone with Down syndrome and their typical peers but each and every one of us.



### Chad's Surprise Balloon Ride

**Author:** Kelly Wallis DeWitt

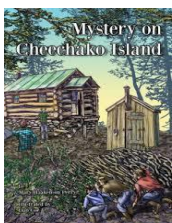
This story is based on the actual events of Chad, a sweet and playful boy who has Down Syndrome and loves big adventures. When a hot air balloon competition comes to town, he is ready for an experience as grand as the balloons floating in the sky. Chad brings enthusiasm to all of life's moments, big and small. Chad's grand adventure sends him soaring into the air.



### Different--A Great Thing to Be!

**Author:** Heather Avis

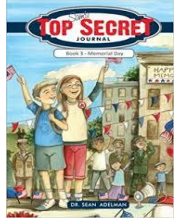
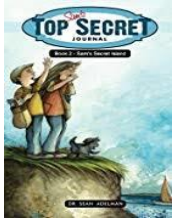
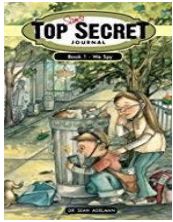
A New York Times Best Seller. This joyful rhyming book encourages children to value the "different" in all people, leading the way to a kinder world in which the differences in all of us are celebrated and embraced. Macy is a girl who's a lot like you and me, but she's also quite different, which is a great thing to be. With kindness, grace, and bravery, Macy finds her place in the world, bringing beauty and laughter wherever she goes and leading others to find delight in the unique design of every person.



### Mystery on Cheechako Island

**Author:** Mary Haakenson Perry

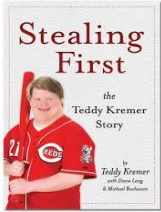
Eleven-year-old Sunny Turner doesn't let the fact that she has Down syndrome stop her from participating fully in life. Whether she is at school, swimming with friends, or helping her family with chores, she always tries to do her best. When her family moves to their summer fish camp on a remote Alaskan island, Sunny encounters a menacing stranger.



### Sam's Top Secret Journal (3 Book Series)

**Author:** Sean Adelman

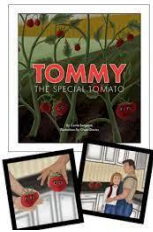
Sam is an eighth-grade girl living a regular life, enjoying her family, school, and traveling. She doesn't feel different, but sometimes others treat her differently because she has Down syndrome. Follow Sam as she chronicles her adventures in her private journal.



### Stealing First: The Teddy Kremer Story

**Authors:** T Kremer with D. Lang & M. Buchanan

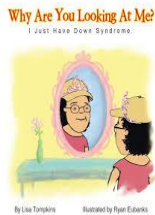
The night of April 18, 2013, is one that Cincinnati Reds fans will remember. On that night, Teddy Kremer was the team's batboy. Also, on that night, the Reds hit seven home runs, and Manager Dusty Baker told Teddy, "Seems you're our good luck charm, Teddy."



### Tommy The Special Tomato

**Author:** Carrie Bergeron

Carrie Bergeron's original story of a special tomato which began as a high school English assignment, has now been adapted into this wonderful children's book. Carrie shares this story when speaking to organizations, schools, and colleges to help spread the word that being different is OK! Carrie's dream has been to write a children's book version of Tommy The Special Tomato and share her message with even more people!



### Why Are You Looking at Me?: I Just Have Down Syndrome

**Author:** Lisa Tompkins

This story is about the life of a child with Down Syndrome that wants to be your friend. Lynn timer may look different than most children but has many of the same likes and dislikes. Lynn timer will help your child discover what it means to accept and embrace relationships with people who are different.