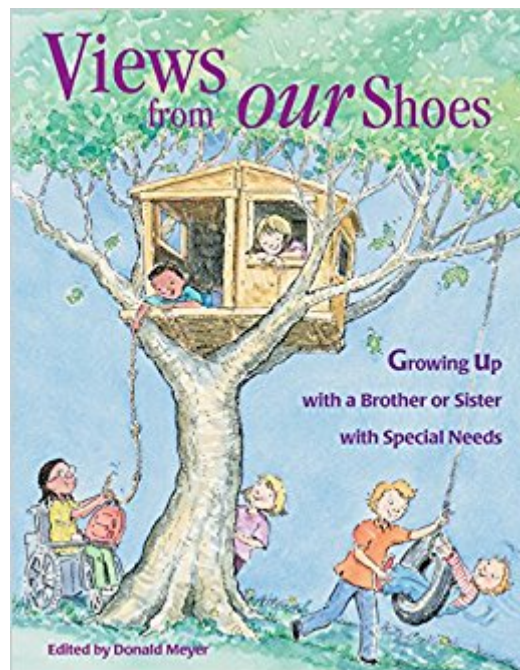




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# Views From Our Shoes: Growing Up With A Brother Or Sister With Special Needs



## Synopsis

In *Views From Our Shoes*, 45 siblings share their experiences as the brother or sister of someone with a disability. The children whose essays are featured here range from four to eighteen and are the siblings of youngsters with a variety of special needs, including autism, cerebral palsy, developmental delays, ADD, hydrocephalus, visual and hearing impairments, Down and Tourette syndromes. Their personal tales introduce young siblings to others like them, perhaps for the first time, and allow them to compare experiences. A glossary of disabilities provides easy-to-understand definitions of many of the conditions mentioned. Also by Don Meyer: *Thicker than Water: Essays by Adult Siblings of People with Disabilities* *The Sibling Slam Book: What It's Really Like To Have A Brother Or Sister With Special Needs*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 3-10?A collection of 45 brief essays by children and young adults who have a sibling with special needs, ranging from mental retardation through a number of rare syndromes. The writings are arranged in chronological order, from that of a 4 year old to an 18 year old. As such, they vary in quality as well as in insights into family relationships. The writings seem to be quite honest as some children come right out and say that they feel they are treated unfairly and that their siblings can get away with things that they cannot. In most cases, however, the children speak out against those who make fun of or misunderstand the youngsters who are different. As such, this book would be useful for schools that have special-ed programs or a number of mainstreamed students for it

concentrates on what special-needs children can do rather than what they cannot, and makes a firm statement advocating community support for all members of the family. The final piece is an eloquent plea for giving opportunities to special children. The drawings illustrate the children in sometimes amusing ways and add informality rather than clarification. Information on the special needs is included, as well as addresses and Web sites to find more information. The disabilities or disorders are explained in a glossary. This is certainly a different kind of book on developmental disabilities and, as such, fills a need. Margaret C. Howell, West Springfield Elementary School, VA Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gr. 4<sup>^</sup>-6. Although the number of books about disabled children has grown steadily, not many nonfiction books explore the feelings of a disabled child's brother or sister. These unpretentious, honest snippets, contributed by 45 children ranging in age from 4 ("My Mommy and Daddy told me that Nicole was born very early and her brain got hurt") to 18, seek to fill that gap. In talking about their sibs and their feelings, the writers admit to embarrassment ("I'm sure glad he doesn't go to my school . . . if they find out that he's my brother, they'd laugh"), anger, and jealousy. But at the same time, they show how protective and loving and surprisingly wise they are when it comes to getting along in a family that is different. Black-and-white sketches are scattered through the text, and a glossary of medical conditions and a helpful list of support sources are appended. Stephanie Zvirin

I would definitely recommend this book! Its written from the perspective of a bunch of different children of various ages who have a sibling with special needs. The kids featured have siblings with many conditions and levels of ability, from low to high functioning, and healthy to medically fragile children. I am the parent of a child with special needs with another baby on the way. This book helped me have insight on some concerns my neuro-typical child might feel about attention, insecurities, how other people look at them and so on. It made me think of a lot of things that wouldn't have occurred to me and was very helpful. I plan to re-read it. The kid's letters are short enough to be readable when you have time, and helps because its no overwhelming like some books about special needs can be. Its definitely worth reading.

I've used this with kids one-on-one if the child is upset at all the attention his or her sibling is receiving because of a special need. Helps them feel part of a special group and can help them to understand a lot more about their sibling, their family dynamics and that they are simply not alone.

Bought the book for our able daughter to know that she's not alone in having a disabled sibling. Me and husband were reading it and found it useful too - could identify with some of the situations in the book

Good for older kids maybe but not under 10. Not sure about the "wisdom" for my child. It was more a book of kids venting about their siblings, but stating they still love them.

my twin grandson was born with this and he has a twin brother and a older sister some day can read it and understand . it helped me understand. wonderful book.

My daughter has severe autism and it has been very hard on my oldest son (Almost 9yrs old). I bought this book with the hopes that he could read about other kids who had to live with the same kinds of stresses that he lives with having a special needs sister. He really liked the short stories written by other 'special kid' siblings and best of all, it has opened up a new world of communication between us. I highly recommend this book for any sibling who may be struggling with the role of being a brother/sister to a 'special needs' kid.

Views from Our Shoes is a wonderful collection of stories. I enjoy it every time I read it, and take something new from it each time. The first time I read this book, it helped me understand myself better. It helps to know that there are other siblings who have the same range of emotions towards their special siblings that I have toward mine. The essays do not hold back any feelings, which is important for helping other individuals. I would highly recommend this book to siblings and parents of children with special needs. I think that siblings, both younger and older would benefit from reading this book. Especially if they have never met any other siblings of individuals with special needs. This book would also benefit parents and help them understand the feelings of their "normal" child. Children with special needs can demand a lot of attention, and their siblings will often fade into the background willingly, and it is important for parents not to let their children do this. Even though siblings may put themselves on the back burner, it can create bad relationships among family members in the future. Views from Our Shoes would be a wonderful book for children and parents to read to help them relate to each other.

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