Meet our friends, Naveed, Ali, Miriam, Iqra, and Komal. They show us that all kids are alike, even when they are a little different. They have strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes, they love their families and friends who also love them, have fun times and difficult times. Just like all the other kids.

This book was financed by the World Bank’s South Asia Region ‘Youth Innovation Fund’ and Pakistan ‘Small Grants Program’ with some assistance from the SIDA-WDR 2006 Equity in Development Grant. It was written for younger children by a group of young people between the ages of 12 to 16, with and without disabilities. It is designed to teach children early on about inclusion: that people with a disability are able to do many things and are not someone to fear. In fact, sometimes not having one faculty makes something else better than most people’s. But the real lesson the authors wish to communicate to young children is that we are all human and really just the same.
These are our friends

Naveed

Ali
My name is Naveed. I like storybooks. When I grow up I will make movies for children.

I’m Ali. I love playing cricket. I want to play for the Pakistan cricket team.
My name is Miriam. I love solving riddles and word problems. I want to be a maths teacher.

I'm Iqra. I like to play computer games. I want to be a doctor one day.

My name is Komal. I am Iqra’s sister. I love drawing and painting. I want to be an artist when I grow up.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE?
Naveed is six. He wanted to go to the village school with his brother and sister. He did not want to go to a ‘Special’ school far away in the city. His parents went to the school to talk to the headmaster.
The headmaster, teachers, and other parents decided to fix the school so that Naveed's wheelchair could go in. They built a ramp, made the door wider, and made a space in the classroom for his wheelchair. Everyone was happy!
At first, Naveed liked it when his class fellows helped him.

But later, Naveed wanted to do things himself and be just like the other kids. One day the teacher asked Naveed to clean the blackboard. But his best friend Ali did it for him. Naveed was not very happy.
Another day, Naveed was the first to finish his class work. His teacher asked him to collect the papers for her. But Ali started collecting them, too.

Naveed yelled at Ali, 'Stop doing my work!' Ali was surprised, 'But I just want to help.' 'I don’t want your help!' shouted Naveed. 'I like to do things on my own!'
Ali thought he was helping Naveed, but Naveed didn’t want to be treated differently. He wanted to be just like all the other kids. He told Ali that he liked to help the teacher. Ali promised to ask before helping again. Then Naveed helped Ali carry his books and bag home.
Miriam also likes to help people. She was born blind. At first her parents didn’t send her to school, especially because she was a girl. They thought she might fall and hurt herself, or that she would never be able to get a job. But Miriam never bumped into things. She knew where everything was in the house. She was very smart and had a good memory. She wanted to go to school like the other children.
Miriam's father had a buffalo. Miriam loved the buffalo very much. She helped her parents look after it. Miriam's mother sold some of the milk to the neighbors.

Miriam couldn't see, but she was very good at pouring milk into the containers. She was able to tell the weight of the milk by holding the jar. Miriam was very careful with money. She knew how each currency note and coin felt. She counted the money every time before her mother put it away in a money box with a strong lock.
Aunty Bano, the next door neighbor, always bought milk from Miriam’s family. One day, Aunty Bano knocked on the door. ‘I’ve come to pay the milk bill for this month,’ Aunty said. Miriam was alone, so Aunty Bano decided to cheat her. ‘One, two, three, four, five hundred rupees,’ she counted out loud.

But really, she had slipped in a ten rupee note instead. She was walking away quickly when Miriam called out, ‘Aunty, please stop! There are only 410 rupees instead of 500 rupees!’ But Aunty didn’t stop, so Miriam called for help. The neighbors came quickly. Miriam told them what happened.
The neighbors called Aunty back and counted the money in Miriam’s hand. They scolded Aunty. Aunty Bano gave the rest of the money to Miriam. Miriam’s parents were very proud of her. They also realized she was very smart. She counted so well and had caught the cheating. They decided to send her to school after all.
Iqra is eight years old and lives with her family in a city. She is deaf and goes to a school for children with hearing problems. She loves her parents, two sisters, and brother very much, and they love her, too.
Some days, Iqra and her sister Komal go to the market after school. One day, they were about to cross the street at a zebra crossing. The traffic light was red. They looked right, and then left, then right again before stepping on to the road. Just like you’re supposed to do.
As Iqra and her sister began to cross the street, Iqra suddenly stopped. She felt the vibration of a big truck speeding closer and closer. An elderly woman was about to cross the street. The truck was about to hit her. Iqra reached for the woman. Komal screamed, ‘Stop!’ They grasped the woman and pulled her back to safety.
The elderly woman said, 'Thank you! You saved my life!' The policeman asked how Iqra knew the truck was coming. Iqra explained that she felt the truck coming first.

You see, not being able to hear made Iqra see and feel things around her, even more than everyone else!
One day, Iqra, Komal, and their family went to visit their uncle. Their uncle was the headmaster of the village school that Naveed, Ali, and Miriam went to. Iqra’s cousin was getting married. They were going to have a big wedding party. Iqra and Komal were playing with the village children.
Suddenly, the headmaster ran out of the school very excited, chasing a chicken. He yelled, 'Stop, stop!! Catch that bird!!' All the children stopped playing and ran after the chicken. Naveed chased it too. He was very fast.
The children tried to catch the chicken, but it was too smart. It flew low and fast. Suddenly, Naveed wheeled quickly in front of the others and grabbed its leg.

'Oh, thank you children! And special thanks to you, Naveed,' the headmaster said. 'You are today's hero! You saved our party tonight. You all must join us to celebrate.'
So they all went and had a wonderful time.
Disability = Different Ability

Just because some one has a disability, doesn’t mean they aren’t like everyone else. If one thing doesn’t work so well, then other things get even stronger!

EVERYONE HAS STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

- Naveed can’t walk, but he’s very good at his Urdu lessons.
- Ali isn’t very good in Urdu, but he plays cricket very well.
- Miriam can’t see, but she’s very good at maths.
- Iqra can’t hear, but she always knows what is going on around her.
- Komal isn’t good at maths, but she can draw lovely pictures.

WHAT ARE YOU GOOD AT?
WHAT ARE YOU NOT SO GOOD AT?
DID YOU KNOW THAT?

-President Franklin D. Roosevelt
  The longest serving President of the USA from 1932-45 had polio and was in a wheelchair.

-Albert Einstein
  The great physicist and mathematician, and Nobel Prize winner who developed the Theory of Relativity had a form of autism. Some think he was also dyslexic. His early teachers thought he wasn’t very smart.

-Helen Keller
  The famous writer and teacher was blind and deaf. The story of her difficult early years became very famous in a play called “The Miracle Worker.”

-Heather Whitestone
  Miss America 1995 is deaf. She has worked to raise awareness about Persons with Disabilities.

-Ludwig Van Beethoven
  The famous classical music composer became deaf.

-Thomas Edison
  He discovered the electric light, record player, and cinematic camera. He was slightly deaf and dyslexic. He never really learned to write very well.
Some Pakistani role models with disabilities

Dr. Muhammad Kashif
He is a psychiatrist at Rawalpindi General Hospital. He has cone-rod dystrophy and is visually impaired. He is a medical graduate, working on his Doctorate in Behavioural Sciences.

Saima Ammar
She is a founder of PFFB Audio World, a talking book library service for the visually challenged. She has a Master’s Degree in International Relations. She has been blind since she was 2½ years old.

Tariq Ayub
He is a software programmer at Saudi Pak Investment Company and social activist. He is also a member of Sir Syed Deaf Association and the British Deaf Association. He is hearing impaired.

Muhammad Imran
He has a Master’s Degree in Public Administration and is working on his Doctorate in Human Resources Management. He works at PTCL and STEP as a Communications Manager. He had polio and is in a wheelchair.

Fahmina Puri
She has a Master’s Degree in Economics. She worked as a consultant to the World Bank to set up and help run the Development Marketplace, 2006. She had a spinal cord injury when she was 14 years old and is in a wheelchair.

Pakistan Blind Cricket Team
They won the World Cup a few years ago.
Dos and Don’ts of Disability

IF YOU DON’T HAVE A DISABILITY:

- **DO** be respectful. All people are equal.
- **DO** include people with disabilities in your life. Everyone likes to have fun, work hard, and be with their families and friends.
- **DO** ask before helping someone with a disability.
- **DON’T** use the word “Special” person.
- **DON’T** use the word “Handicapped.” Do use the word “Disabled”.

IF YOU HAVE A DISABILITY:

- You can **DO** anything you want, if you work hard at it.
- **DON’T** let your dreams be stopped because others don’t understand.
- **DO** teach people that you are just like everyone else.
“Just like the other kids” team in Islamabad.

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Huma Mirza (Materials Development Specialist). She worked with the young authors to develop the stories and teach them about book writing and publishing.

Adeel-uz-Zafar (illustrator) and Akbar Zia (designer). They brought our characters to life.

Special thanks to Rubina Anjum, Principal of Al Makhtoom School for the Visually Impaired, Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo (Disability Coordinator, East Asia) and our young writers’ teachers for all their support. We also thank all the other students and staff from the following institutions who helped at various times: Al Makhtoom School for the Visually Impaired (Islamabad), Al Farabi School for Physically Handicapped Children (Islamabad), Hasan Academy for Hearing Impaired Children (Rawalpindi, an inclusive education school), Fatima Jinnah Special Education Centre for MR Children (Islamabad), Beaconhouse, Islamabad Model College for Girls, and Islamabad College for Boys.
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