

# My Brother Brandon

PREVIEW

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by Erica Blit + Anita Bluestone

illustrated by  
Amber Haynes

# PREVIEW

Text ©2018 by Erica Blit & Anita Bluestone

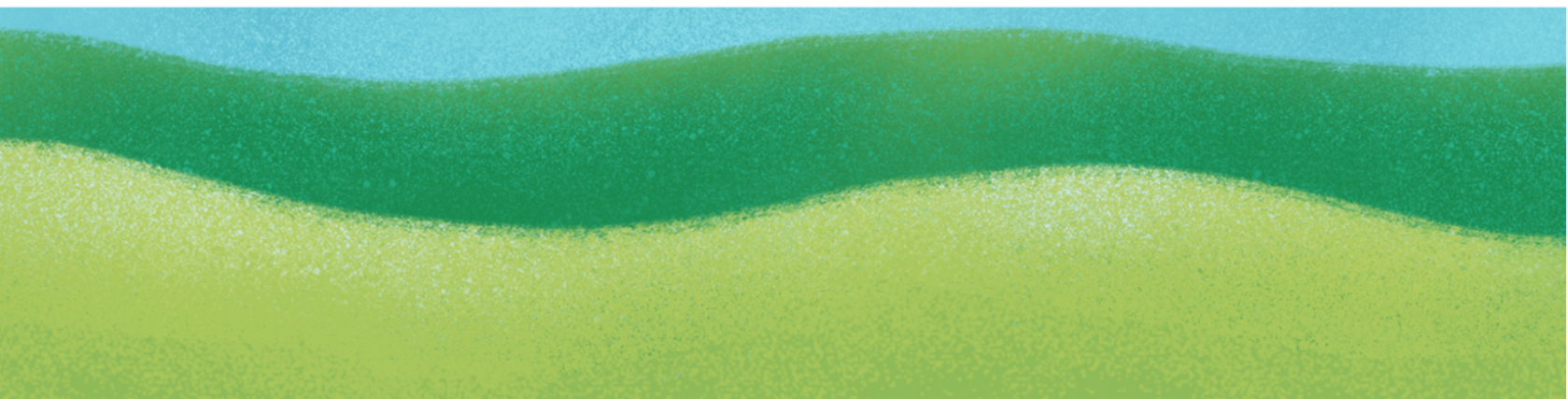
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# PREVIEW







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We hope you enjoy our story and  
love spreading kindness and  
acceptance as much as we do.

# PREVIEW

Love,  
Brandon & Skylar



An illustration of a young boy with blonde hair peeking from behind a white bookshelf. The room has blue walls and a yellow floor. A large window is visible in the background. The word 'PREVIEW' is written in large, light blue, semi-transparent letters across the top half of the image.

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My Brother Brandon is special.

There are some things he's good at and some things that are hard for him just like all of us.





Brandon is smart, just in a different way.





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Brandon's brain forgot to teach him how to speak. Even though he can't speak he still likes to have fun and be loved just like you.



A stylized illustration of a young boy with blonde hair, wearing a light blue t-shirt with a white lightning bolt graphic and dark blue pants, standing in the center. He is surrounded by colorful, blocky buildings in shades of red, orange, green, and blue. The word 'PREVIEW' is written in large, light gray, sans-serif capital letters across the top of the image, partially overlapping the buildings and the boy's head.

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Brandon also has a hard time following directions, has the need to feel certain objects or materials very frequently, and has a hard time understanding and learning things as quickly as other people.



There are a few other things Brandon does differently from you. For example he drools, uses a feeding tube to eat, and sticks his tongue out.

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Even though some things are hard for him, there are  
things he's great at.

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The most special things about Brandon are that he is accepting of everyone, is never mean to anybody, and has a smile that lights up a room.

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Because Brandon can't speak he sometimes uses actions like pointing or pulling to an object he wants, uses an iPad to communicate, and uses sign language. Isn't it amazing how Brandon works extra hard to do things that are easy for us?



A colorful illustration of a young boy and a young girl sitting cross-legged on a green grassy hill. The boy, on the left, has blonde hair and is wearing a grey t-shirt with blue sleeves and dark blue pants. The girl, on the right, has long blonde hair and is wearing a pink t-shirt and blue jeans. Behind them is a large green tree with a brown trunk. In the background, a city skyline is visible under a light blue sky. The word 'PREVIEW' is written in large, light grey, sans-serif capital letters across the top of the image.

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My favorite way that Brandon shows me he  
loves me is when he gives me cuddles.





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He teaches us what love is about.





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My family loves to spend time  
with Brandon.





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If you're with Brandon you can help him by accepting that he may act differently than you do, showing him the way you do things, so he can copy you, and being nice to him.



The background is a vibrant yellow-green gradient. Scattered across it are several speech bubbles in various colors: purple, green, teal, blue, and red. Each bubble contains a different compliment in a playful, hand-drawn style. The word 'PREVIEW' is overlaid in large, light gray, sans-serif capital letters, appearing three times across the middle of the image.

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Give Brandon compliments when he is  
doing an excellent job.  
Mostly just be nice!



A young boy with blonde hair, wearing a grey t-shirt with dark green sleeves and dark blue pants, sits cross-legged on a green grassy hill. The background is a deep blue night sky filled with white stars and a large, pale blue crescent moon. Stylized, swirling blue and white clouds are visible behind the boy. The word 'PREVIEW' is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the top of the image.

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Brandon is one of a kind just like all of us. It would be boring if we were all the same. Life is more interesting because everyone is different.



Help your friends and others learn  
about Brandon.

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Most importantly remember Brandon  
can be an amazing friend!

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This book was written about Brandon.  
However, there are so many other people with  
special needs who all have their own unique  
challenges and strengths. Our hope is that this  
book helps to create a world where people  
take the time to get to know each person  
despite their difficulties.

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Continue the conversation:  
How are we the same?

How are we different?

What are you good at?

What is Brandon good at?

How can I be a good friend to  
other people like Brandon?

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## NOTE TO PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

# PREVIEW

**Exposing children to people with special needs promotes a more inclusive society. This is important in helping children develop empathy. Empathetic people are not only happier but more successful and less aggressive. Below are some ways you can support or help your child in understanding special needs.**

Point out to your child how everyone is different —that's what makes the world so special and interesting. Each person with special needs has different challenges. For example, some can't walk or talk, and some may learn slower.

People communicate in many ways. When you smile, nod, shake your head, point etc. that's all communication.

Instead of telling children not to stare at someone with special needs, you can tell them It's ok to say hi and introduce yourself. Children are naturally curious and asking questions is a good thing.

Reinforce and recognize your child when he or she demonstrates positive behaviors towards others. Name calling – even if meant as a joke can be hurtful and is never ok.





This is your page to add anything else you want to say or draw about Brandon.

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“

There are three ways to ultimate success:

The first way is to be kind.  
The second way is to be kind.  
The third way is to be kind.

”

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