

LITTLE
BIG
LESSONS

Rick Hansen
Foundation 
School Program

PRESENTED BY



FUTURE PROSPECTS

Scotiabank®

ACCESSIBLE CLASSROOM

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES K–3

DEFINITIONS

Accessible means that the environment is available to as many people as possible. Can everyone access your school? We want our schools to be places that people with vision, hearing, and physical disabilities can all work, learn, and play!

Vision disability or **being blind** or **partially sighted** (low vision) means that you have trouble seeing. You might use a sensing cane, a seeing-eye dog, or very strong prescription glasses.

Hearing disability or **being deaf** or **hard of hearing** means that you have trouble hearing. You might use sign language to communicate or a hearing aid device.

Physical disability means that you do not have the use of your whole body, such as arms and legs. You might use a wheelchair, leg braces, or an artificial limb (prosthetic limb).

ACTIVITY

This is Michael's classroom. Michael is wearing a yellow sweater and holding a book while he talks to his friend, Sarah, who uses a wheelchair. Sometimes Sarah is unable to move around the classroom because there are things on the floor that block her path or take up too much space. Michael thinks it is a good idea to move the bean bags off the floor so that Sarah has more space to use her wheelchair. The teachers thought this was a great idea. To make the room even more **accessible** for students with **vision**, **hearing**, and **physical disabilities**, the school decided to make a few more changes.



LITTLE BIG LESSONS

Can you spot the changes below? Circle areas that look different now. How might these changes help?



LITTLE BIG LESSONS



From left to right, here are a few reasons why the classroom is more accessible now:

Circle 1: The alphabet chart on the left wall now has braille letters on it as well, so our friends who are visually impaired can also read the letters.

Circle 2: There is a PUSH button beside the door that will open it automatically when someone presses it. This makes it easier for everyone to open heavy doors.

Circle 3: The handle on the door is now a bar instead of a circular knob. This also makes it easier to grip and turn the handle.

Circle 4: The beanbags are removed off the floor, so the space is clear and easily accessible for wheelchairs and walkers.

Circle 5: The cabinets on the back wall are now lower and this makes reaching things on the shelf more accessible for everyone.

Circle 6: The calendar now has the month in a lighter colour on a dark background, which makes “October” easier to read for our friends with visual impairments.

Circle 7: There is now a fire alarm visible on the wall. This can light up so our friends who are hearing impaired can see when the alarm is on.

Circle 8: This cabinet has also been lowered and is now at an accessible height.

Circle 9: The letters that the teacher and students are holding are now larger, clearer, and have dark letters on light backgrounds or light letters on dark backgrounds so they are easier to read.

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