

LITTLE
BIG
LESSONS

Rick Hansen
Foundation 
School Program

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SCENARIO CARD INSTRUCTIONS

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES K–8

LITTLE BIG LESSONS

There are lots of different ways to use the following scenario cards! Give some of these ideas a try:

- Read a scenario, and reflect on your answer. Then compare your ideas with the possible answers provided. Go through all ten scenarios or pick a few.
- Pick one scenario card to read at the dinner table each night and have a discussion about it with your family.
- Pick one card and read the scenario as well as the possible answers. Did you learn anything new about disability? Create an informative poster that could help others understand more about the disability on your scenario card.

For weekly lessons delivered straight to your inbox, go to RickHansen.com/LittleBigLessons and click on Sign Up.

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SCENARIO CARDS

GRADES K-8

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VISION





Welcome Student

Justin is new to school. He is blind and uses a white cane to get around. How can we ensure he can find his own way to the library, gym, and classrooms?

Possible answers:

1. Braille signs.
2. Tactile maps.
3. Hallways clear of obstacles.
4. Give Justin clear spoken directions. (“The library is down the second hall to the left, about fifty feet away.”)
5. Students can ask the best way to offer Justin assistance if he is lost.



Welcome Student

Sayed is colour blind. He can't always tell the difference between red and green. Your school uses a colour coding system to identify different rooms. What can the school do to make sure all students can find the right room?

Possible answers:

1. Use numbers or names in addition to colours.
2. Avoid colours that are commonly confused by people with colour blindness.



Guide Dog

Your new classmate has a guide dog. What are some examples of etiquette that you can think of about how to interact with your friend and their dog?

Possible answers:

1. Guide dogs are working dogs. Always ask before interacting with the dog when it is wearing its harness.
2. Asking about the dog can be a great way to start a conversation.



Trouble shooting

How can we make this staircase more accessible for someone who doesn't see very well?



Possible answers:

1. Add handrails.
2. Add bright, textured lines to mark top and bottom stairs.
3. Ensure bright lighting.



HEARING





Do's and Don'ts for Communication

Your new friend Kevin is deaf in one ear. What can you do to make sure Kevin hears you when you talk? What shouldn't you do?

Possible answers:

1. Do stand or sit on Kevin's hearing side
2. Do remember which ear it is so you don't start whispering in his deaf ear!
3. Do look at Kevin when you're speaking to him and speak clearly at a normal volume.
4. Don't yell or talk down to Kevin.
5. Don't grab or poke Kevin to get his attention.



No One left behind

Your school has a fire drill. Jesse, who is Deaf, is in the bathroom when the alarm goes off, and the class leaves without them. What can the school do to make sure no one misses the fire alarm?

Possible answers:

1. Announce when there will be a fire drill. Go over proper procedures to do so. Explore procedures if Jesse was not in the classroom during the time of the fire drill.
2. Install visual fire alarms.
3. Have someone dedicated to check all areas of the school.
4. Instruct Jesse that if the class is away to immediately check outside.



MOBILITY





Welcome Student

A new student in your class uses a wheelchair. Your teacher wants to make sure she has an easy time navigating the classroom. How could we make this classroom more accessible?



Possible answers:

1. Remove obstacles from path.
2. Make sure wheelchairs can fit at desks, tables, and between rows.
3. shelves and hooks are low enough for student.



Toilet matters

Imagine this is a bathroom in your school. How could the school make this bathroom more accessible for people with disabilities?



Possible answers:

1. Ensure there is an accessible sink.
2. Ensure there is a raised toilet.
3. Ensure there is an accessible bathroom stall.
4. Install lift bars beside the toilet.
5. Ensure soap and towel dispensers are at right height.
6. Ensure there is enough space to navigate in a wheelchair.



May I play...

If you wanted to play with a friend who uses a wheelchair, could you play together here? How could this playground be made more accessible?



Possible answers:

1. Ramps.
2. Accessible swings.
3. Avoid sand or wood chips.
4. Raised sandbox.
5. Monkey bars at different levels.



**I may be different,
but I am like you...**

Marco is a student in your class. You notice that on some days, he walks around and even participates in gym class, but on others, he uses crutches or a wheelchair. Your teacher says Marco has arthritis. Another student in your class thinks Marco is faking it. What should you tell him?

Possible answers:

1. Someone who uses a wheelchair may only need it some of the time.
2. We don't really know how Marco feels, so we shouldn't assume.
3. Chronic illnesses can come and go, so we should be understanding when someone says they are in pain.



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