

LITTLE  
**BIG**  
LESSONS

Rick Hansen  
Foundation   
School Program

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FUTURE PROSPECTS

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# HOME INSPECTORS

**RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES K-7**

Dear Home Inspectors,

Your home needs to be inspected for accessibility. This is a very important mission, so get your detective gear ready!

## DEFINITIONS

**Accessible** means the absence of obstacles and that the environment is available to as many people as possible. Can everyone access your home?

**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).

## VISION

Is your home accessible for friends with **vision disabilities**?

Check the box if the answer is YES.

- Does your house have plenty of light?
- Is the lighting in your house constant all the way through?
- Does your furniture have different textures, so people can feel the difference?
- Are your kitchen table chairs pushed in so that the space is clear for someone to walk by?
- Do you have colour coded items in your kitchen?
- Does your living room rug have a solid colour? Patterns are difficult for low vision friends to see.
- Are all rugs secure to the floor so they won't slip or slide?
- Are the hallways clear of things you could trip on, such as boxes, backpacks, or shoes?
- Do you have a slip-resistant lining in your bathtub?
- If you have any stairs, do they have a handrail for low vision friends to hold onto?

**Count how many checkmarks you have. Give your home a score out of 10 for low vision accessibility.    \_\_\_ / 10**

Write your idea for how to improve this part of your home:

## HEARING

Is your home accessible for friends who are **hard of hearing**?

Check the box if the answer is YES.

- Do you have sensor lights outside if anyone walks onto your property?
- Do you have an alarm clock that lights up or vibrates when it goes off?
- Do you have a doorbell that lights up when someone rings it?
- Does your phone flash when someone calls?
- Is your home quiet/free of loud distractions?
- Are your windows thick (2 panes)? This helps keep out outside noises.
- Do you have heavy curtains on your windows? This also helps keep out outside noises.
- Do you have carpet throughout all areas in your home? This helps with the echo or vibrations your washing machine and other appliances can make.
- Do you have a flashing smoke alarm or carbon monoxide alarm? This allows people to see the alarm going off.
- If you have a television, does it have closed captioning (dialogue and descriptions on the screen) available?

**Count how many checkmarks you have. Give your home a score out of 10 for hard of hearing accessibility.     \_\_\_ / 10**

Write your idea for how to improve this part of your home:

## PHYSICAL

Is your home accessible for friends with **physical disabilities**?

Check the box if the answer is YES.

- Is the pathway to the front door smooth (without cracks)?
- Do you have ramps in your house instead of stairs?
- Is there a washroom that has enough space for a wheelchair to move around in?
- Is your toilet raised in your bathroom?
- Are there grab rails to help people transfer from their wheelchairs to the toilet?
- Can you get a towel in the washroom using only one hand? Is it at a low height?
- Can you get water from the kitchen sink while sitting down? (Use a chair to find out!)
- Is the furniture in your home laid out so a wheelchair could get through every room?
- Do the doors in your home have handles you can turn instead of doorknobs?
- Does your yard or play area have a smooth surface on which you can use a wheelchair (no stones or woodchips)?

**Count how many checkmarks you have. Give your home a score out of 10 for physical accessibility.     \_\_\_ / 10**

Write your idea for how to improve this part of your home:

## ACCESSIBILITY GRADE

Now it's time to figure out your home's accessibility grade. What grade will you give your home?

### **0 – 7 points**

Needs work. Your home has low accessibility with many barriers. Finding barriers is a good thing! Well done, Inspector!

### **8 – 15 points**

Okay. Your home is kind of accessible, but it has some barriers. Well done, Inspector!

### **16 – 23 points**

Good! Your home has good accessibility with a just a few barriers. Well done, Inspector!

### **24 – 30 points**

Terrific! Your home has terrific accessibility and almost no barriers. Well done, Inspector!

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