

# PARENT STORY

## Heather, mum to Arianna

I created an 'All About Me' page to introduce Arianna to her school community. We had input from her preschool teachers about what Arianna is working on and what keeps her regulated.

I also did an 'Introducing Arianna' letter for the parents. Arianna is taller, the main physical feature of her syndrome. Through this letter, I could be proactive and set the tone around conversations they may have with their children about why Arianna is taller. I also shared my hope that she would be included and treated like any other child.

I know different parents will have different views about openly discussing their child's disability. My approach has always been to normalise disability and her syndrome. I'd rather be open and show people we are proud of Arianna, rather than have her talked about in hushed tones. I wanted to set the tone and guide parents rather than them feeling awkward about it and shy away from including her.

**“**My approach has always been to normalise disability and her syndrome. **”**



People often see disability and make assumptions about capability. I wanted to let them know she is capable, unique and has a few extra challenges. She is more alike than different to their children. I found that once parents understand why she is taller than her peers, they see past that and start to see her as just another kindy kid, which she is!

**Heather, mum to Arianna**



### ARIANNA PICCENNA KINDY

*Teach me to soar and I will*

*-Kelle Hampton*

#### VISION STATEMENT

We envision our daughter living a full life, included in all things that typically developing children are, with relevant support if needed. We envision her having relationships she feels are valuable. In her future we envision her doing work that she enjoys and that makes her feel productive. We envision our daughter living a happy and meaningful life surrounded by love and support.

#### WHAT WORKS FOR ME

- Peer Modeling
- Praise for my Achievements!
- Believe in my Abilities
- Positive Reinforcement
- Movement breaks
- Small groups
- Firm but fair

#### WHAT DOESN'T WORK

- Being Rushed
- Negative Talk
- Assuming I don't understand
- Visual schedules
- Too much help one on one singling me out
- Busy environments

**I LOVE:** My sister, my friends but I also like playing by myself, constructing things, playgrounds, colouring in

#### WHAT I'M WORKING ON

- Learning my Letters and phonics
- Listening
- Self regulation such as sharing
- Looking after my things

**Belongside Families**