

## PARENT STORY

### Nerida, mum to Madi



Before Madi started Kindy, I attended the new school and gave a presentation about Madi to the teachers, admin staff and the principal. I showed them pictures about how she was just like every other soon to be Kindy kid. This presentation was also shown to all the kids in every class during the first week of school.

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I mentioned to Madi's after school / vacation care about a program that NSW Wheelchair Sports runs to allow school students to develop an understanding about what it's like to use a wheelchair for mobility. They facilitate a session talking about living with a disability and then the students have the opportunity to jump into a wheelchair themselves and play either wheelchair basketball or wheelchair AFL.

This vacation care day had the most kids in attendance for an incursion. So popular that they ran it again another two times. Madi's school then also had the program attend the school as part of the Olympics program – again it was a huge hit with not only the students but also the teachers!

Madi absolutely loved it as she was able to see her friends in wheelchairs and so they were just like her!!

I mentioned to the school about a program run by the Cerebral Palsy Alliance called Just Like You. This program is directed to primary school students to develop an understanding, acceptance and inclusion of people with disability, learning that people with a disability really are Just Like You.

The program is facilitated by people with disabilities and tailored to the specific year groups through interactive workshops. The school ran the program twice it was so popular.

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