



# INSPIRED BY AUTISM. WRITTEN FOR EVERY CHILD.



A classroom-ready story that builds empathy, understanding, and inclusion.



## ABOUT THE BOOK

**Built Differently, On Purpose** was inspired by my son's experience with autism and is designed to help students better understand different ways of thinking, feeling, and experiencing the world.

While especially meaningful for autism support classrooms, this book is written for **all students** to promote empathy, awareness, and inclusion.

## BEST FOR



Autism Support Classrooms



Inclusive / General Education Classrooms








Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)



Read-Alouds & Discussions

## KEY THEMES

-  Understanding differences
-  Communication styles
-  Sensory experiences
-  Empathy & inclusion
-  Perspective-taking



## WAYS TO USE THIS BOOK



Whole-class read-aloud & discussion



Small group social skills lessons






Introduction to autism and neurodiversity



SEL-focused lessons on empathy



## DISCUSSION STARTERS

-  What are some ways people experience the world differently?
-  How can we support a friend who thinks or communicates differently?
-  What did you learn from Eli's experience?

## EXTEND THE LEARNING

### BONUS RESOURCE

Includes a Full Activity Guide



Additional activities, discussion prompts, and classroom resources are available to extend learning and support every student.

Scan to access the  
Free Activity Guide!



Created by a parent,  
inspired by lived experience.

Thank you for all you do!



# CLASSROOM RESOURCE GUIDE

## Activities & Discussion Prompts for *Built Differently, On Purpose*



### 1. BEFORE YOU BEGIN



Ask simple questions to prepare children for learning and discussion.



- ♥ Do you know anyone who learns or grows in their own unique way?
- ♥ What are some things that make people different from each other?
- ♥ Why is it important to be kind and understanding toward others?



### 2. DURING THE STORY

Pause and ask:



- ♥ What is happening in this part of the story?
- ♥ How do you think the person in the story is feeling?
- ♥ What are some things that might help someone feel safe or comfortable?
- ♥ What would you do to help someone in this situation?



### 3. AFTER THE STORY DISCUSSION



- ♥ What is something important you learned from this story?
- ♥ What makes you unique and special?
- ♥ How can we show kindness to someone who is different from us?
- ♥ What are ways we can support a friend who needs extra help?

### 4. TRY AN ACTIVITY



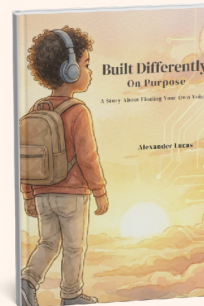
**Draw & Share:** Draw a picture of yourself and something that makes you special. Share it with the group.

**Kindness Practice:** Think of one way you can help someone. Talk about it or act it out together.

**Feelings Connection:** Talk about how someone in the story felt. Have you ever felt the same way? What helped you?



### 5. USE THIS GUIDE WITH THE BOOK



Use this guide alongside **Built Differently, On Purpose** to spark deeper conversations and help children build empathy, understanding, and confidence.



#### BUILD EMPATHY

Help children see, understand, and value others.



#### MAKE IT MEANINGFUL

Encourage meaningful talk that strengthens connections.



#### FOSTER INCLUSION

Create safe spaces where everyone feels seen and valued.

♥ Thank you for all you do!

Created to support meaningful conversations and understanding.

