



## The Community Center

**Overview:** This program opens the door to discussions about challenges faced by children with disabilities. As Orrie and Annie discover how much they can participate in the Community Center's activities, our visitors gain insight into the world of children with disabilities. Visitors to this program learn that children with disabilities can do many of the activities other children can do: play sports, play instruments, and do arts and crafts.

**Activity 1:** Annie wears something in her ear. This activity asks children to identify what Annie has in her ear and why she wears it. It makes being hard of hearing a more personal experience for children by asking them if they have a family member or friend who uses a hearing aid. The activity begins to explore disability sensitivity by asking the question, "Is Annie different from you? Can she do what you do? Would you be someone's friend who needed to wear an aide to hear?"

**Activity 2:** This activity challenges the child using the activity to think about what it would be like to be blind. It asks what a blind child can do independently. It introduces Braille as a method of reading and raises awareness about the role of the service dog.

**Activity 3:** Orrie has his own wheels to get around. Can he do what other kids can do? The activity asks the child doing the activity to think about if he or she knows anyone who uses a wheelchair to get around. It also raises questions about how to treat someone using a wheelchair.

