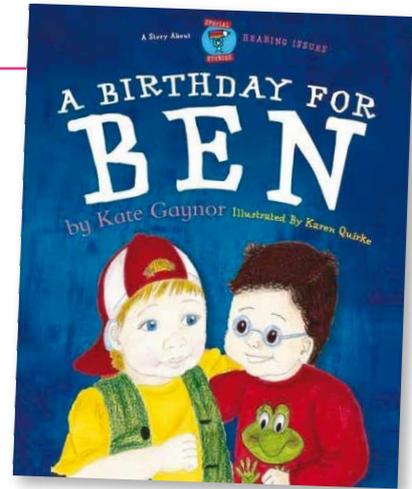


# A BIRTHDAY FOR BEN

by Kate Gaynor

Special Stories Publishing  
(Primary)



This beautifully illustrated book introduces deafness to young children. The story explores some of the difficulties a child who is deaf may face, and how upsetting these can be. The story helps to reinforce how important it is to make sure everyone is included in games and activities, and how easy it is to make changes so that this can happen.

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- How does Ben feel when he goes to birthday parties?
- Why does he feel like this?
- Have you ever felt left out /alone, even when you are surrounded by lots of people?
- How did you feel?
- Why did Ben not want a birthday party for himself?
- What happened when he found his mum and dad had secretly organised one? Was he happy? Or scared?
- What did his mum do to help him, and all his friends, enjoy the party and have fun?
- Can you think of anything else they could do?

## UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

**Article 1:** We are all born free and equal. We all have our own thoughts and ideas. We should all be treated in the same way.

**Article 2:** These rights belong to everybody, whatever our differences.

## FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

- Ask the students to design and make a birthday invitation for Ben's birthday, that would show that everyone was welcome, and everyone would be looked after and feel safe
- Have a circle time, where children talk about a time when they might have felt left out. How did they feel? What did they do?
- Ask children to think about ways they can try to include their friends all the time. Explore these options with the class. Invite children to draw/write their favourite suggestions. Capture these, and create a wall space to display them. Use this as a reference point should issues of exclusion/bullying/intolerance demonstrate themselves in the classroom environment.

## OTHER USEFUL BOOKS

- *Best Friends: A Pop-up Book* – Mark Chambers (Tango Books)
- *Tom's Special Talent – Dyslexia* – Kate Gaynor (Special Stories Series 2)
- *Freddie and the Fairy* – Julia Donaldson and Karen George (Macmillan Children's Books)