



Special Olympics

SO Get Into It[®]



MY BROTHER'S SPECIAL OLYMPICS MEDAL



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This book belongs to:

MY NAME IS ANGIE.

This is a picture of me.

I like to play soccer.

I'm just learning how.

It's really fun to play soccer.



THIS IS A PICTURE OF ME AND MY BROTHER BEN.

I'm 8 years old and Ben is 10.

Ben isn't just my brother.

He's one of my best friends.



BEN AND I LIKE TO PLAY SOCCER TOGETHER.

Sometimes I have to help him.

My Mom and Dad say Ben needs all of us to be more patient with him because he learns more slowly than other kids his age.



**SOMETIMES OTHER KIDS
MAKE FUN OF BEN
BECAUSE HE'S DIFFERENT.**

They think Ben doesn't understand but he really does.

I never make fun of him.

I love my brother Ben, and I want him to have fun and friends just like other kids.



**IT HURTS *MY* FEELINGS
WHEN I'M PLAYING WITH
OTHER KIDS AND THEY
WON'T LET BEN PLAY
BECAUSE HE'S DIFFERENT.**

That really makes me feel sad.
I don't want Ben to be left
out and feel bad.



**MY PARENTS AND I WERE
SO HAPPY WHEN ALEX,
A TEENAGER WHO LIVES
ON OUR STREET, TOLD
US ABOUT SPECIAL
OLYMPICS AND UNIFIED
SPORTS.**

Alex said Special Olympics has a way for people like Ben and me to play sports on the same team.

That's why it's called "Unified Sports."

Unified. Together. Get it?



**MY FAMILY AND I WENT
WITH ALEX AND SOME
OF THE OTHER SPECIAL
OLYMPICS ATHLETES TO
WATCH A UNIFIED SOCCER
GAME.**

It was so exciting!



ALEX IS THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED SOCCER COACH.

He never yells and he's
never mean.

He really likes all kids
no matter how quickly
or slowly they learn.



I REALLY LIKE ALEX.

Because of Alex, Ben and lots of other kids are learning how to play soccer.

We all help out the team.

When I get older I want to be a Special Olympics coach, too.



**BEN REALLY WANTED
OUR UNIFIED TEAM TO
WIN THEIR FIRST SOCCER
GAME.**

He practiced over and over again how to kick and pass the ball.

He worked so hard at it that he was just as good as I was at kicking and passing the ball.



BEN SAID IT BEST:

“I want to get better and be a champion. And I want to try my best and help my teammates.”

I think Ben knows more than some kids who they call normal!



**OUR TEAM PLAYED THEIR
FIRST GAME WITH ANOTHER
TEAM AND WE WON!**

Everyone tried their best and
all got a chance to play in
the game.



**AFTER THE GAME,
EVERYONE GAVE “HIGH
FIVES” TO EACH OTHER.**



I WATCHED AS THE OTHER TEAM'S COACH SPOKE WITH THEM.

Sometimes when a team loses a game, they look sad.

He said in their own way, they *were* winners too and he was proud of them all.

The important thing was they were playing the game, having fun and trying hard to do their best.



WE WERE ALL SO EXCITED.

At the end of the game Ben and our teammates got their own Special Olympics medal for playing so well.

“We’re all champions now” said Ben.

Our whole team went out for ice cream after the game.



**BEN REALLY EARNED
THAT MEDAL BECAUSE
HE WORKED HARD AND
GOT REALLY GOOD.**

Ben doesn't win every time he plays, but he keeps trying to do his best.



**I SURE AM PROUD OF
MY BROTHER.**

Go Ben!







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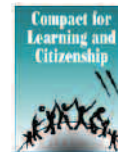
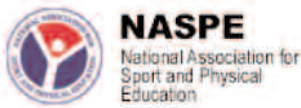
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