Rolling Along: The Story of Taylor and His Wheelchair by Jamee Riggio Heelan

Taylor and Tyler are twin brothers and best friends. But the twins are different in one significant way: Taylor has cerebral palsy, while Tyler does not. Through Taylor's eyes we see how much effort he must expend to strengthen his legs, which are weak. He explains how valuable his new wheelchair is because it helps him maneuver more easily and do the things he wants to do, like go to school and play basketball with his brother Tyler. This full-color picture book series from the nation's leading rehabilitation center will explain to readers ages 6 and up the needs of children with disabilities. The Learning Books offer valuable insight and inspiration for children with disabilities as well as for their family members and schoolmates. Each book is written from the viewpoint of a real child with a physical disability. The goal of each book is to see into the child's world, understand the physical challenge the child faces, and learn how an assistive device can empower the child to overcome the limitations posed by his or her disability.

Features:
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My Personal Review:
Have you ever wondered what goes on in the day of a wheelchair-using child? This book details all the triumphs and struggles of such a child. Taylor and Tyler are twins, but while Tyler can run, jump, and skip, Taylor has cerebral palsy and walks with a walker or uses the wheelchair. Readers can see how Taylor attends daily physical therapy sessions with Kathryn, a physical therapist, and how he colors, studies, and does other, ordinary activities with his brother. He even plays basketball in his wheelchair.
Tyler is helping Taylor learn to do wheelies with his wheelchair. Despite the daredevil connotation, wheelies are useful for getting up on curbs and other uneven spots.

Situations that hinder Taylor are those that unimpaired people probably dont notice: tall water fountains and sinks; small bathrooms; steps and stairs, and heavy doors. All public buildings after ADA are required to remedy these shortcomings (as far as I am aware), but of course, not every building is disabled accessible, even in 2005.

Illustrations are clever half drawings, half photographs. For example, photographed head and arms are joined by casually drawn bodies and props. This approach evokes more energy, perhaps, than mere photos of a boy in a wheelchair.

This engaging, positive view of cerebral palsy will have students saying, Gee, I didnt know how much a disabled person can do.

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