

Hey Room ____ parents!

Meet _____!

This is _____. She is five years old and thrilled to be at _____ School this year.

Ms. _____ graciously invited me to read a book to the students. I chose, "My Friend Isabelle," by Eliza Woloson. It's a fun book about a typical friendship between a little boy named Charlie and his friend Isabelle. Throughout their play-date, Charlie talks about how he and Isabelle are both alike and different. "I run fast. Isabelle takes her time." "We drink apple juice and eat Cheerios at the little red table and chairs."

Isabelle and ____ have something in common, too. They both have Down syndrome.

Today at school, I attempted to provide a kindergarten appropriate definition of Down syndrome for ____'s classmates:

Down syndrome is something that causes differences in the way a child looks and learns. Babies with Down syndrome are born with an extra chromosome in some or all of their cells. Chromosomes are tiny, thread-shaped things inside your body. They contain the directions that tell your body how to grow. These directions tell your body what color your eyes and hair will be, how big your nose will be, whether you will be a good singer, and many other things. When a kid has an extra chromosome, it mixes up his body's directions a little. That is why kids with Down syndrome look a little different from others sometimes and have to try harder to learn.

I would love to see all our kids in Rm. 108 have a fabulous year. In that vein, I'd like to ask you to talk to your child about "My Friend Isabelle." You can talk about:

- The definition of Down syndrome
- Differences and similarities between your child and other classmates
- How different doesn't mean bad
- How to be a good friend to everyone at school
- How ____ may need a little more time to learn things, but that she will learn.

If you or your child has questions for me or _____, we're happy to try to answer them. And just like Charlie and Isabelle, we love play-dates!

Warmly,

_____'s Mom

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