

Up About Down

Mom pens children's book about child with Down Syndrome



Sean Tracey, left, a Grade 5 student at Holy Cross Catholic Elementary School listens as author Cindy Lasi reads from ABCD is for Down, a book she authored based on her three-year-old son 'No Limit' Noah, who is seated on her lap.

(Windsor, Ontario, Nov. 5, 2014) – When Cindy Lasi went shopping at a local book store for some children's titles about kids with Down Syndrome, she was surprised to discover that she couldn't find any.

So she decided to write one herself.

"We have all of these great books about characters like Caillou and Dora the Explorer, but I couldn't find any about characters with Down's," she said. "I wanted to bring a character who just so happens to have Down's into mainstream society."

Lasi didn't have to go far for her inspiration. Her three-year-old son Noah has Down Syndrome, so she decided to author an alphabet book based on the character 'No Limit' Noah.

"He has this pure positive spirit that he constantly exudes," she says of Noah. "He's open and fun-loving, he lives in the moment, and he gets over things quickly. That's something we could all learn from."

Lasi, who plans to write a series of books about Noah, was at Holy Cross Catholic Elementary School on Tuesday afternoon. She was joined by Sean Tracey, a Grade 5 student there who also has Down's, and together they read the book to the entire student body during an assembly in the gymnasium.

Up About Down, the area's Down Syndrome Association, recently received a grant from Green Shield Canada to purchase 150 copies of the book, 46 of which will be distributed to all of the WECDSB's schools.

Lasi said part of her goal in writing the book was to create greater awareness about people with Down Syndrome. Many of those on hand for Tuesday's events spoke highly of the WECDSB's efforts to integrate children with special needs into its schools, including Sean's father Jim Tracey, who had special praise for all of the school's educational assistants who have helped his son so much.

"I can't say enough good things about this school," he said. "I'm especially amazed by the kids here who have accepted Sean and made him feel so welcome."