



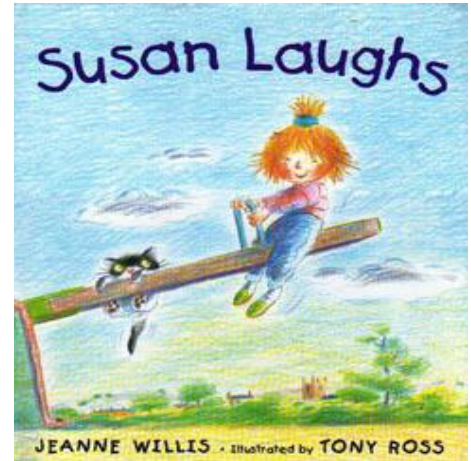
## HSCI Community Book Group: *Susan Laughs* By Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross

### Using books to teach about Inclusion and differences

#### **Susan Laughs**

Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross  
*Henry Holt and Company*

*Susan is a little girl who enjoys laughing, swinging, playing, and moving. In this rhyming book we hear about Susan's feelings and the things she likes to do. The book is successful at showing that Susan is just like any other kid and she also uses a wheelchair.*



#### Ideas for how to use this story in the classroom:

- Lead a discussion about learning. In small groups, help children talk about a time when learning came easily to them. They may want to talk about something they learned at school or at home. Then, help them talk about a time when learning something new was difficult for them. In both examples, help them to use as much detail as they can. You can help them by saying "Tell us more about that time."
- Talk about ways Susan moves in the story. Children can see that Susan plays just like they do; she gets picked up and hugged, plays on the swing and more. Then discuss how a wheelchair is a tool that she can use to help her move. Think of other things we use to help us move.

#### Ideas for how to use this story at home with your child:

- Use this story as an opportunity. Talk to your child about people who use wheelchairs and why they might need to use them. Having an open and honest conversation with your child at home with a story can help for when you meet wheelchair users out in your community.
- Emphasize what's the same. A child may have different needs than your child does, but he's still a child first. Talk to your child about what they have in common with a classmate with special needs— They may be the same age, go to the same school, play at the same park, or enjoy the same games.

