



INCLUDING ~~SAMUEL~~

**ISAIAH'S
BROTHER**

MOVIE PARTY TOOLKIT



A NOTE FROM ISAIAH

Hey Peoples,

Have you ever seen kids in wheelchairs being pushed down the hall of your school by someone that looks like they're thinking about retirement? That is an example of a school in need of improvement. Not in education, but in the inclusion of kids with disabilities.

My name is Isaiah Habib and I have a little brother named Samuel. I'm an eighth grader and I love sports. Baseball is my favorite. I also love hanging out with friends, girls and eating good food.

Samuel is in fourth grade. He has cerebral palsy, which is a type of disability that makes it hard for his brain to control his muscles. Even though Samuel has a disability, that doesn't change his loveable personality. Every time he meets someone new they become his friend.

He is so sweet to everyone. He's got an awesome sense of humor and he loves NASCAR, girls, baseball, disasters (like the Titanic) and reading.

My dad, Dan, made a documentary film about five families—including ours—that have a child with a disability. It's called *INCLUDING SAMUEL*. I think inclusion is important because what if Samuel had to go to a separate school and he couldn't see any of his friends or family? That would be horrible.

At my middle school, there is a room called the "inclusion room" where kids with disabilities spend most of their day. Why is it called the inclusion room if they are in a separate part of the building? I think if those kids had the right support and help they could be in the regular classrooms.

In my family's day-to-day lifestyle inclusion happens almost every 10 minutes. Like when kids from up the street come down and ask Samuel to play. Also at school it's a race to see who can be the first to sit with Samuel at the lunch table. Samuel is also a Cub Scout with a lot of his friends. His favorite part of Scouts is the pinewood derby. I think it is so cool when I see Samuel cheering on his car with a bunch of his friends surrounding him.

I really hope that after you watch the movie, you see people with disabilities in a different way. Take the time to get to know them. They might be the funniest person you ever met. Or the weirdest person you ever met. Or the coolest person you ever met. You might see them like I see Samuel—happy just the way he is.



photo: Betsy McNamara

Isaiah Habib

Isaiah Habib

HAVE A MOVIE PARTY!



THE TOOLKIT

This Toolkit will help you plan an INCLUDING **SAMUEL** movie party. We've designed it for use with the website: www.includingsamuel.com.

On the website you will find:

- ▶ Three-minute and 12-minute film trailers.
- ▶ A resources section with free downloads of cool stuff to read plus tons of links.
- ▶ A downloadable "Screening and Outreach" kit that includes posters, pictures, and more.
- ▶ A list of TV broadcast dates and times.
- ▶ An online store for the DVD. Use the coupon code "IS10teen" for a 10% discount!
- ▶ An expanded "Adult" version of this Toolkit.
- ▶ The INCLUDING **SAMUEL** Screening Headquarters Map (<http://events.workingfilms.org/all/signup>). We hope you'll put your party on the map!

THE AGENDA

- ▶ **Make sure you have enough time.**
You'll need at least 2 hours to show the film and then talk about it afterward.
- ▶ **Briefly introduce the film.**
Introduce the film and any special guests. Invite everyone to stay after the film to talk.
- ▶ **View the film (it's 58 minutes long).**
- ▶ **Talk about it.**
Go through the discussion questions in this guide. Invite teens with disabilities to the party and ask them to help lead the discussion.
- ▶ **Share your thoughts with us!**
Join the INCLUDING **SAMUEL** Facebook Group and post your thoughts and comments: <http://groups.to/includingsamuel/>. If you're not on Facebook, you can email Dan Habib at dan@includingsamuel.com.

FOR YOUR DISCUSSION



WHAT IS INCLUSION?

Talk about where you saw inclusion in the film:

Inclusion means:

- ▶ **Making sure** that people with and without disabilities have the same opportunities in life
- ▶ **Creating** a school or club or team where everyone feels like they belong
- ▶ **Focusing** on cooperation over competition
- ▶ **Understanding** that having a disability is a natural part of life
- ▶ **Assuming** that everyone can be successful

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS;

1. Which person's story made the greatest impact on you? Why?
2. Did this film change the way you think about people with disabilities? If so, how?
3. Why do adults often separate children with disabilities? What do you think young people learn—or don't learn—by being separated?
4. One of the teenagers in the film who did not have a disability said "inclusion benefitted me in a huge way." What do you think the benefits of inclusion are for all kids?
5. Do you think inclusion is working well in your school or community? Why or why not? What could make it work better?
6. Now that you've seen this film, do you think you'll do anything differently at home, or in your community as a result? What and why?

TAKE ACTION!

- If you think that everyone should be fully included at school and in the community, here are some ways you can help:

EVERY DAY

- Be an inclusion leader by example. Make sure EVERYONE feels welcome in the hallway, lunchroom, in sports, at dances, at parties and other activities.
- Be patient with people who have difficulty speaking or use technology to communicate.
- Understand that some people have a hard time socializing because of their disability.
- Learn about People-First Language at <http://iod.unh.edu/press.html>.

ON SCREEN

- Invite five or more friends (with and without disabilities) to your own movie party. Before they come, ask them to watch the film trailer at www.includingsamuel.com.
- Blog, create a YouTube video or write about INCLUDING SAMUEL or the film trailer.
- Post a comment on the INCLUDING SAMUEL Facebook Group at <http://groups.to/includingsamuel/>. If you don't have Facebook, email video links and thoughts to dan@includingsamuel.com.

IN THE COMMUNITY

- Volunteer to work with an inclusive group of children or coach a team.
- Participate in inclusive recreational programs in your area.
- Take steps to make your favorite hobbies or activities available and accessible to everyone.



HOSTING A MOVIE PARTY IS AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3!

1. Find a TV broadcast in your area or buy the DVD at a discount at www.includingsamuel.com. Use the coupon code "IS10teen" for a 10% discount.
2. Use this guide to help plan your movie party.
3. Tell us how it went on the INCLUDING SAMUEL Facebook Group: <http://groups.to/includingsamuel/>

IN SCHOOL

- Start a disability rights group.
- Ask teachers and administrators how they are making your school inclusive and what you can do to help.

You can learn more about inclusion and download free resources at www.includingsamuel.com, www.includingallkids.org, www.inclusionproject.org and www.cvscaremarkallkidscan.com.

PARTNERS AND CREDITS

The INCLUDING SAMUEL Project is a program of the Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Donations to the INCLUDING SAMUEL Project will help build more inclusive schools and communities through curriculum, training, and outreach. Donate at www.includingsamuel.com/support.

Major support for the INCLUDING SAMUEL Project comes from:



www.cvscaremarkallkidscan.com



www.inclusionproject.org

INCLUDING SAMUEL Outreach and Engagement Partners include:

ADA Watch • American Federation of Teachers • The Arc of the United States • Association of University Centers on Disabilities • Boys & Girls Clubs of America • Council of Administrators of Special Education • Creative Coalition • CVS Caremark All Kids Can • Girl Scouts of the USA • Kids Included Together • Learning Disabilities Association of America • Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation • National Association of School Psychologists • National Education Association • National Inclusion Project • NYU Council for the Study of Disability • PEAK Parent Center • TASH • United Cerebral Palsy • Victor Pineda Foundation • VSA arts

Contact your local chapter about co-hosting an INCLUDING SAMUEL movie party.

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Working Films helped produce this guide. Working Films leverages the power of storytelling through documentary film to advance struggles for social, economic, and environmental justice, human and civil rights.

WORKING FILMS



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