



**Building a
Neuroinclusive
School**

● **QUICK GUIDE** ●

Books That Celebrate Neurodiversity

**Here are our top picks for books that
celebrate all kinds of brains!**

While many are picture books, the Young Neurodiversity Champions assure us they're just as meaningful for older readers too.

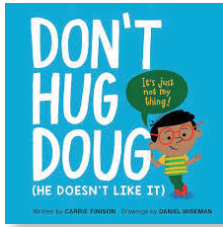
Using books in your classroom and recommending them to families is a fun and simple way to explore neurodiversity. It helps everyone appreciate the amazing variety in how our brains are wired, while normalising and celebrating differences.



Learn more at
www.neurodiversity.org.nz/bns
or by scanning the QR code.



**Young
Neurodiversity
Champions**



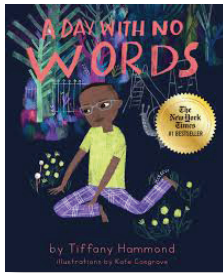
Don't Hug Doug

Carrie Finison

(Penguin Young Readers Group, 2021)

Exactly as it says - Doug does not want to be hugged and the story shows a whole lot of fun alternatives AND the very special 'exception to the rule' for Doug.

Picture Book



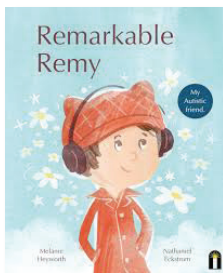
A Day With No Words

Tiffany Hammond

(Row House Publishing, 2023)

Aidan doesn't use his own voice to communicate, but shares his experiences in different ways. This is a kind, joyful celebration of different communication styles.

Picture Book



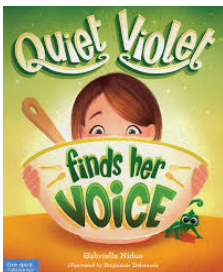
Remarkable Remy

Melanie Hayworth

(Hardie Grant Childrens Publishing, 2023)

Remy's friend thinks Remy's brain is remarkable! This story is a celebration of differences and friendships.

Picture Book



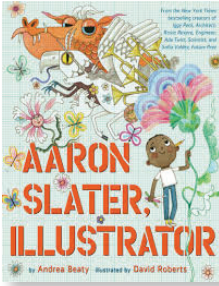
Quiet Violet Finds Her Voice

Gabrielle Nidus

(Free Spirit Publishing, 2024)

A really affirming great read for introverts! Quietness is valued and also recognised as not being the same as 'having nothing to say'.

Picture Book



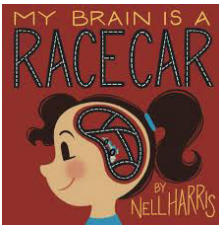
Aaron Slater, Illustrator

Andrea Beaty
(ABRAMS, 2021)

The *Questioners* series focuses on a child with particular strengths (and challenges) and shows the great ways they harness these strengths. Packed with possibilities for follow up activities and spin-off adventure stories, with activity books also available .

Picture Book

Books in the *Questioners* series include *Rosie Reveer, Engineer* and *Sofia Valdez, Future Prez*.

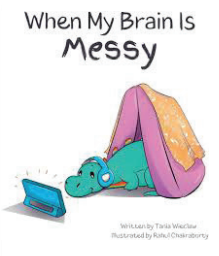


My Brain is a Race Car

Nell Harris
(Nell Harris, 2023)

Written by a parent with ADHD, this book offers a great analogy for 'racing brains' and how to manage them effectively!

Picture Book

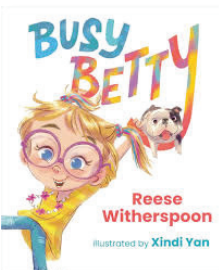


When My Brain Is Messy

Tania Wieclaw
(When My Brain is Messy, 2023)

For the very young, this has a dinosaur for a main character and shows us some different responses to sensory input. Super relatable!

Picture Book

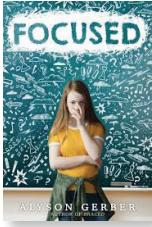


Busy Betty

Reese Witherspoon
(Penguin Random House Australia, 2022)

Betty has a whirlwind of a brain! How on earth can she get something seemingly simple done when there's SO many great things to do? Friends help! Check out the rest of the series too!

Picture Book



Focused

Alyson Gerber

(Scholastic Incorporated, 2019)

Clea's relatable experiences share how classrooms and schools can be HARD when attention is scattered.

Chapter Book



Good Different

Meg Eden Kuyatt

(Scholastic Incorporated, 2023)

Told in verse, this is a story of Selah's journey towards self-acceptance. It's powerful and heartfelt, and busts a bunch of stereotypes along the way.

Chapter Book



A Boy Called Bat

Elana K Arnold

(HarperCollins, 2017)

An 'easy to read' book about a boy who finds life surprising... sometimes 'good' surprising, sometimes not. This is a relatable and engaging book and shares Bixby/Bat's experiences warmly.

Chapter Book

Part of a trilogy with *Bat and the Waiting Game* and *Bat and the End of Everything*



Fish In A Tree

Lynda Mullaly Hunt

(Penguin Young Readers Group, 2015)

Building on Einstein's quote about the foolishness of judging a fish by its ability to climb a tree, Ally's story highlights that all brains have strengths and struggles.

Chapter Book

Building A Neuroinclusive School is a FREE learning platform and community-building programme for primary and secondary school leaders and teachers. Check out more FUN and PRACTICAL resources at www.neurodiversity.org.nz/bns



Neurodiversity
in Education
Project