

The Learning Center Series (Article #2)

The Learning Center is a part of Burning Tree Elementary School that every parent and child should take the time to understand and embrace together.

Children with special needs face many challenges and obstacles. These children will have an easier time navigating the world if the people in their lives take the time to understand them. The children, teachers, and parents at Burning Tree can make a big difference in their lives by learning more about the children with special needs in their school. When children take the time to learn about other children in their school, they will be supporting their peers, making new friends, and ultimately strengthening their own character. Parents can help their own child understand what it feels to be different and how nice it feels to be understood and accepted.

The best way to teach a child about tolerance and acceptance is by encouraging them to take the time, and make the effort, to understand and respect others. That way, they will learn empathy and compassion and will learn to treat people the way they would like to be treated themselves.

When another child, parent, or teacher embraces your “special” child as a whole and accepts that child for all s/he is and not for all s/he isn’t, great things happen all around!

The following are some resources to use in helping you and your child understand and embrace differences in each other:

Books:

1. In Jesse’s Shoes: Appreciating Kids w/Special Needs By Beverly Lewis
2. Rules by Cynthia Lord
3. What’s wrong with Timmy? By Maria Shriver
4. Let’s Talk About it: Extraordinary Friends By Fred Rogers
5. Including Students w/ Special Needs: A Practical Guide for the Classroom Teacher
6. The Autism Acceptance Book: Being a Friend to someone w/ Autism

Website: www.autismspeaks.com