



Lesson 2: How It Feels to Live With a Physical Disability

Purpose:

- To learn about the challenges and achievements of children with a variety of physical disabilities

Materials needed:

- Book: Friends at School by Rochelle Bunnett
- People with Special Needs worksheet
- Situation Card #5

Introduction:

Read aloud situation card #5 about Annie, who walks with crutches. Allow a short period of time for students to share their thoughts.

Activity:

Read the book, Friends at School by Rochelle Bunnett

Discussion:

Allow time after reading the story for students to ask questions and discuss.

The following are some questions and general tips to share with the class about physical disabilities:

Questions:

1. Are people with physical disabilities sick and fragile?

Most individuals with physical disabilities are healthy and strong. They enjoy doing many of the same activities as non-disabled individuals.

2. Do you catch physical disabilities from people?

You don't catch them from people. They happen at birth or from an illness or accident.

3. Should you ask questions? It is okay to be curious and ask questions. You don't need to feel sorry for them or be afraid to look. Just treat them like other

people; they want to be your friend like anyone else. Helping is okay if you are asked.

General tips for communicating with people that have a physical disability:

1. When introduced to a person with a disability, it is appropriate to offer to shake hands. People with limited hand use or who wear an artificial limb can usually shake hands. (Shaking hands with the left hand is an acceptable greeting.)
2. If you offer assistance, wait until the offer is accepted. Then listen to or ask for instructions.
3. Don't be afraid to ask questions when you are unsure of what to do.
4. Treat all individuals with respect.

Wrap up:

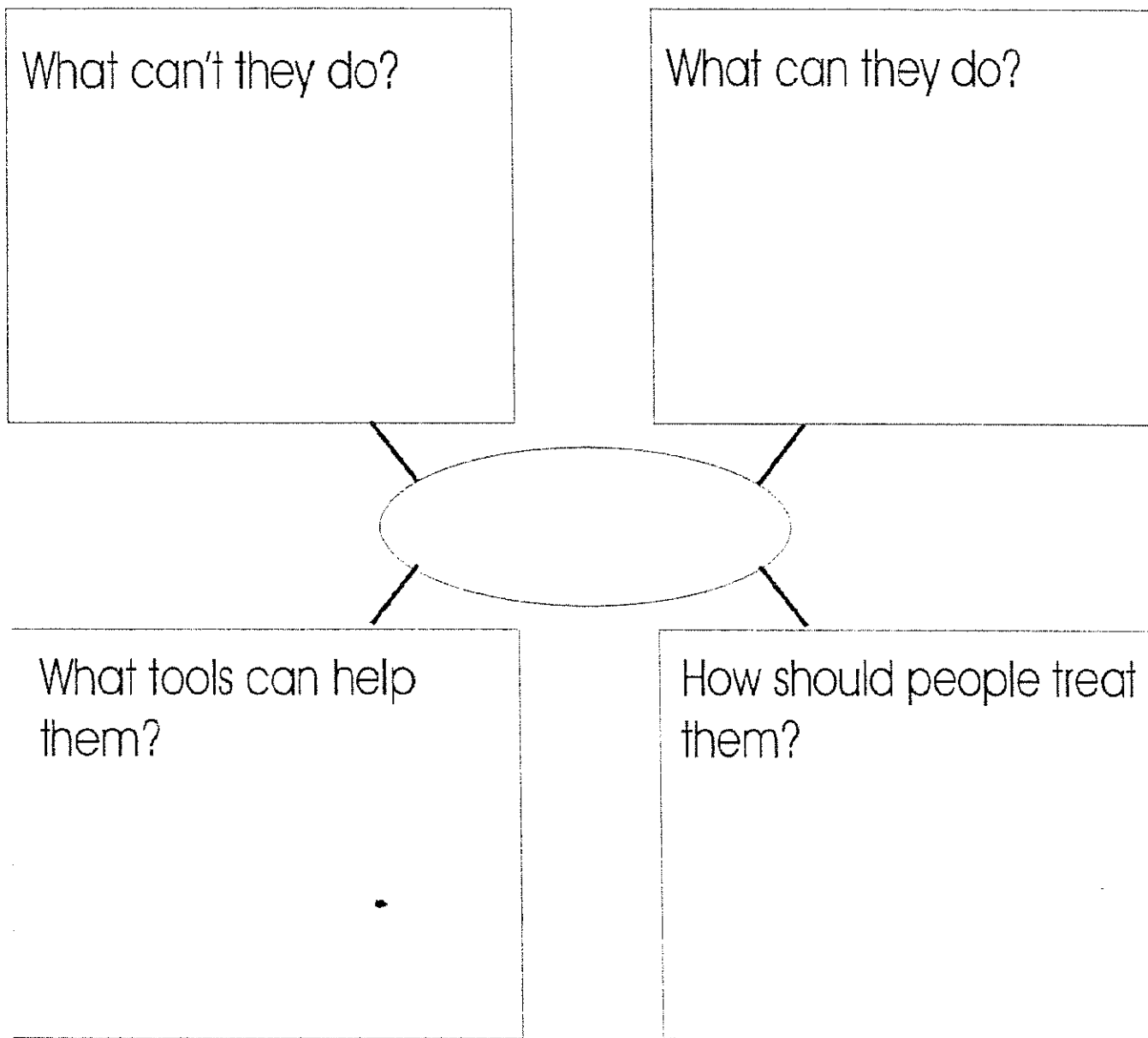
Distribute worksheet: People with Special Needs.

In the center circle, have the students write "people with physical disabilities."

Encourage students to complete the graphic organizer, Students should realize all the different things that people with a physical disability *can* do.

Name: _____

People with Special Needs



1. My Question: _____
