

Explaining Rett syndrome to a young audience

These wonderfully simple downloadable Coloring Books (one with text, one images only) will help you explain Rett syndrome to young and old audiences alike, but will especially help siblings, classmates, neighborhood friends, and others in your life accept your child for the wonderful person she is.

IRSF Coloring Book w/text 3.74 Mb

IRSF Coloring Book w/o text

Please share how you benefited from this resource by emailing admin@rettsyndrome.org

Special message from the author and illustrator:

"Through my college, I saw a design opportunity where a local family was looking for an artist to create an educational coloring book for young children. This coloring book would be given to classmates of their two daughter's who both have Rett Syndrome, describing the Syndrome and capitalizing on similarities between the girls with Rett Syndrome and their peers. After contacting the family and showing them my portfolio, they opened up their lives and gave me access to their digital family photo album. I then used these images as inspiration for the book and characters within. The family then contacted the IRSF with the coloring book, hoping it could be of use to other families with girls with Rett Syndrome. Finally, I hope this coloring book about Rett Syndrome is educational, yet fun and interactive, for not only youngsters, but grown-ups alike."

How this came about from the Johnson family:

"A couple of years ago we started getting a lot of questions from Katrina's friends about Rett Syndrome. A few years later we adopted Emma, Katrina had completed Kindergarten, and was transitioning to a new school. My wife Jen and I said 'wouldn't it be cool if there was a coloring book that helped explain Rett Syndrome?'

In the middle of summer I posted a job advertisement on the Minneapolis College of Art and Design website seeking people to create a coloring book explaining Rett Syndrome. Artists sent in links to their portfolios. We chose our favorite three and asked them to submit quotes.

Sarah was our favorite. She looked at videos, pictures, researched Rett Syndrome, and created amazing illustrations. Jen and I helped pick the page themes and wrote the story.

We've used the coloring book as an outreach tool at school for both Emma and Katrina. It's helped the other kids get a better understanding about Rett Syndrome and our girls."