

# TAKE ACTION!



**A**fter watching *Including Samuel*, you may want to take action. Here are some steps that youth, parents, educators, administrators and policy makers can take to support inclusion and disability rights.

## ON SCREEN

- Organize your own screening of *Including Samuel*. Invite educators, administrators, youth program leaders, parents, school board members, young people and others you think should be involved in advancing the full inclusion of students with disabilities.
- Be sure to download the *Including Samuel* Screening Toolkits. Included are suggested steps for organizing your screening, publicizing your event, and engaging participants in meaningful discussion.



DOWNLOAD

Screening toolkits for adults and youth

[www.includingsamuel.com](http://www.includingsamuel.com)

## IN SCHOOLS AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS

- Donate a copy of *Including Samuel* to your school and youth serving organization and ask that it be shown to the staff, the PTO or PTA and/or students. Buy the DVD online at [www.includingsamuel.com/store](http://www.includingsamuel.com/store).
- Demand that schools and youth-serving organizations provide inclusive access to

the entire range of extracurricular and social activities, and that all children have the supports they need for full membership, participation and learning.

- Lobby your school district and youth organizations to lease or purchase “regular” buses with wheelchair lifts.
- Work with your parent teacher organization (PTO or PTA), school district and recreation department to replace inaccessible playgrounds with universally designed playgrounds. Become involved in the planning and fundraising for this process.
- Start or mentor the creation of a disability rights group at your local school or organization.

## IN THE COMMUNITY

- Volunteer to lead a youth group or coach a team. Be a leader of inclusion by example.
- Work with local businesses, civic organizations and places of worship to improve the accessibility of facilities in your community.
- Educate town employees, elected officials, and civic leaders about disability issues.
- When hosting play dates or a party, ask about the accessibility and dietary needs of the invited children.
- Start or become involved in a town or city “Disability Access Commission.”
- Work with your town or city’s “Master Plan Committee” to have universal design and aging-in-place concepts included in the master plan.
- Contact Congressional Representatives, Senators, elected officials, and local and federal transportation authorities to make sure your town or city’s public transportation system is fully accessible.

- Challenge educators and community leaders to use people-first language and avoid outdated words like “wheelchair bound,” “retarded” and “normal people.”
- Reach out to other groups in your community and partner to hold meetings, write letters to editors, host public events, etc. Co-host a public informational night on inclusion with a keynote speaker.
- Partner with local organizations that serve people with disabilities. They can be a great resource for education and training.
- Get involved in recreational groups and community-based organizations that practice and advocate for full inclusion. See the “Partners and Credits” page of this guide for organizations that might have local affiliates where you live.

## IN THE GOVERNMENT

- Learn about the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and other disability related policies. Remind people about relevant aspects to these laws (like “Least Restrictive Environment” with the proper supports).
- Organize a group to meet with your state and Congressional Representatives and Senators or their staff to discuss the issue of inclusion as it relates to public policies. All Congressional Representatives have state offices outside Washington, DC, and many will meet and respond to their constituents.
- Call, write or email policymakers about pending or potential legislation that will impact inclusive education or disability rights.
- Call your U.S. Senators and Representatives by using this number to the U.S. Capitol operator and asking to be transferred: (202) 224-3121. On the web, find phone numbers, mail and email addresses at [www.usa.gov/contact.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/contact.shtml).

## IN THE MEDIA

- Contact the local media about stories in your community that highlight successful inclusion.
- Write a letter to the editors of local newspapers expressing your support for inclusion in local schools and communities. Use the material in this toolkit for talking points.
- Call in to talk radio shows when the topic of discussion relates to inclusion, special education or disability rights.
- When a reporter uses language that contains prejudice (i.e. “wheelchair-bound”), send an email, or write a letter to the editor. Similarly, congratulate reporters with a letter to the editor for particularly well-done stories.
- Be persistent! Know that not every story you submit will get covered. Use the community pages, calendars and letters to the editor pages to get the word out about local events and initiatives.

## KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM

- Download and share interesting articles on inclusion and disability rights.
- Join the *Including Samuel* Facebook group (<http://groups.to/includingsamuel/>) and participate in a vibrant discussion about the benefits and challenges of inclusion.
- Attend a conference or event held by a group committed to inclusion, like TASH, VSA arts, PEAK or Kids Included Together (KIT).
- Be a positive role model, mentor and optimistic leader. Use creative problem solving to support inclusion.



DOWNLOAD

More action items and free, downloadable resources on inclusion

[www.includingsamuel.com/resources](http://www.includingsamuel.com/resources)

## ONCE YOU HAVE AN EVENT, REPORT BACK TO US—PLEASE!

We want to hear from you. Tell us about your screening of *Including Samuel*. A brief report form is available online at <http://events.workingfilms.org/includingsamuel/reports/new/> or post on the *Including Samuel* Facebook Group. Include links to photos, video, blogs and press coverage. Please also send any newspaper clippings and audience evaluations by mail to Dan Habib, The Institute on Disability, 56 Old Suncook Road, Suite 2, Concord NH 03301. You can also scan these items and email them to [dan@includingsamuel.com](mailto:dan@includingsamuel.com), or fax them to his attention at (603)228-3270.



DOWNLOAD

Screening evaluation form

[www.includingsamuel.com/screenings/host](http://www.includingsamuel.com/screenings/host)

