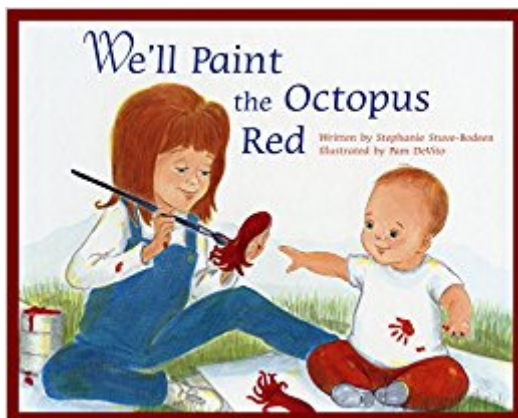


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# We'll Paint The Octopus Red



## Synopsis

As six-year-old Emma anticipates the birth of her new baby brother or sister, she vividly imagines all of the things they can do together. Emma feels ready to be a big sister! Then when the baby is born, her dad tells her that it's a boy and he has something called Down syndrome. Finally she asks, "If Isaac has this Down thing, then what can't he do?". Her dad thinks about it, then tells her that as long as they are patient with him, and help him when he needs it, there probably isn't anything Isaac can't do. In this touching story, Emma helps her father as much as he helps her to realise that Isaac is the baby they dreamed of. The book concludes with a set of commonly asked questions about Down syndrome with answers for children and how it might affect their sibling and family. For ages 3-7. Also by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen: *The Best Worst Brother*

## Book Information

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 3-Emma isn't happy to learn that she will soon be a big sister. After talking with her father, however, she thinks of "at least a million things my new brother or sister could do with me," and she eagerly awaits her sibling's arrival. When Isaac is born, the family is confronted with the fact that he has Down Syndrome. Emma's father explains that Isaac will still be able to do all of the things that Emma has thought of; he will just do them at a slower pace. The story ends on a high note with an excited Emma and her father visiting Isaac and her mother in the hospital. A

well-thought-out question-and-answer section completes this bibliotherapeutic title. Although the artwork lacks the warmth of the text and Emma's skin tone and hair color are inconsistently portrayed, this is an appropriate title for parenting collections or as an additional purchase for children's collections. Lisa Gangemi Krapp, Sousa Elementary School, Port Washington, NY Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Ages 4<sup>+</sup>-7. What starts as a regular new-baby story takes an unexpected twist. The young redheaded narrator is at first displeased with the idea of a new sibling but then has lots of ideas about what they might do together. She will take the baby to her grandfather's farm and feed the calves. Her father says they can do that when the baby is older. She will teach the baby to paint. Her father says they can do that when the baby is older. She will take the baby to Africa on a photo safari. Her father says fine, but only if he can go, too. After the girl and her father are finished talking, she says, "We'd thought of at least a million things my new brother or sister could do with me." Then, Father comes home with the news that baby Isaac has been born with Down syndrome. Her father is upset, but as the girl asks her questions all over again, they both see that although it may take a little longer and require more patience, they can't find one of those million things that Isaac won't be able to do with their help. The fine text gets right to a child's level of understanding, and the positive messages of acceptance and helping may best be understood by children this age. An appended question-and-answer spread, written at a child's level, tells what Down syndrome is, why some babies have it, and why parents may feel sad when the baby is born. Ink-and-watercolor pictures, while not expertly executed, do exude a warm feeling that matches the story. Although the book skirts some issues that Isaac may face (e.g., intolerance, illness), this is a thoughtful, focused book that will be of enormous help to families with Down syndrome children. Ilene Cooper

I cried when I read this book. I felt like it was written for our family. My daughter is 5 and my son (who has Down syndrome) is 2. I bought the book as a way to open the conversation about his diagnosis. The amazing part? The little girl talks about going on safari in Africa with her brother. We actually did go on safari in Africa when my son was 7 months old & we'll be going to Kenya next year. I had no idea this was in the book when I found it. It is a beautiful, thoughtful book for children who have siblings with Down syndrome.

I bought this book for my step son and his wife who are expecting a baby boy with Down Syndrome in December. They have two other boys and I wanted them to share this book with them. An

encouraging book of hope and great expectations. I teach 1st grade and read this book to my students every year to remind them that everyone is different but all loved the same.

Great little book to explain Down syndrome to the littles!

Six year old Emma isn't very happy about the idea of having a new brother or sister but when Emma and her dad start thinking of all the things that they can do with the new baby, Emma becomes excited at the prospect of being a big sister. When her dad comes home and tells Emma that her new brother, Isaac, has Down syndrome, Emma worries that he won't be able to do any of the fun things that she has imagined. As Emma and her dad think back over all the things they wanted to do with the new baby, they realize together that as long as they are patient and helped him when he needed it, there wasn't anything he couldn't do. This is a reassuring story for young children bewildered by Down syndrome and what it means for their relationship with their new sibling. This is truly a wonderful story. Your child will ask you why you are crying after you read it to them. Of all the books for this age group, this book is by far the best.

This book is written from the perspective of a young girl whose parents are expecting a baby boy with Down syndrome. I use this book every year during disability awareness week at my school. It is colorful, easy for kids to relate to, and has discussion questions at the end which are helpful. Highly recommended!

Perfect story for new sibling with downs!

Such a great story for children and parents to understand that a child with Down Syndrome is no different than any other child b

sweet story. my son enjoyed it and the info in the back helped us to explain more about his little brother.

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