

Dear Parent(s),

As parents of a child attending (school name), we are sure that you are as excited and somewhat nervous as we are. This year our daughter (or son) (name) will be attending (school name) with your child. You and your child may realize a difference in (child's name) compared to some other children in her class. The only difference is that (child's name) is shorter than the "average" classmate because she has a form of dwarfism called Achondroplasia.

It is our hope that the parent(s) of (child's name) classmates will take a few minutes and explain to their child about children with differences. For example, some children are smaller, taller, skinnier or heavier than the next child. Some children have different color skin, hair or eyes. Some might even speak differently or some might not speak at all. Even though some people look different or act differently, that they are all people and should be treated as such.

We also ask that you mention to your children that pointing and staring are inappropriate and will make others feel uncomfortable. This is an important life lesson that we are teaching our daughter (or son) and a good one for all children so that they all learn to respect one another.

If your children ask about (child's name), you can tell them that she (or he) is a Little Person or that she (or he) has dwarfism. We ask that you remind them that she (or he) is the same age as your child and should be treated that way. For instance, she (or he) should not be called names...for example, the word "baby" because of her size. We have explained to (your child's name) that people are all different. This is who she (or he) is and her (or his) differences are what make her unique and special.

In our home, we refrain from using the word "normal" and have substituted it with the word "average" when referring to others...since what is normal? Also, please mention that (child's name) does not like to be patted on her head and should not be picked up or be pulled by her (or his) arms because this can cause a very serious injury to her (or him).

(Child's name) does realize that she (or he) is a Little Person. We know that throughout her (or his) life she (or he) will have plenty of times that people will point, stare and make her (or him) feel uncomfortably different. We hope that the time we share in (school name) will spare her (or him) some of these burdens in life. If you have any questions regarding (child's name) please do not hesitate to give us a call. It is our job to educate and our hope for people to listen.

Attached is a post card with basic facts on dwarfism. If you or your child would like to learn more about dwarfism, you can visit our web site: [www.understandingdwarfism.com](http://www.understandingdwarfism.com)

Look forward to building great friendships during this school year!

(your name)

(your number) home (your cell) cell

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