

Preparing children for school...

Preparing children for school can be both exciting and nerve-wracking. New friends, new environments and new activities await. Children may be apprehensive about the impending changes. Preparing a child with limb differences for school can be even more of a challenge. The booklet, *Children With Limb Loss: A guide book for Teachers*, the Amputee Center of Grand Rapids, Michigan, offers advice to teachers.

Tips include: Answer questions by allowing children to do a show-and-tell about their limbs and prostheses.

- Focus on children's abilities rather than disabilities; as classmates and friends see children with limb differences function normally in a number of activities, concerns about differences in appearance will diminish.

- Don't limit the activities or involvement in school of children with limb differences; encourage them to try new things that help with their development.

- Have the same expectations regarding behavior and discipline of children with limb differences as other children, and treat no child differently than another.

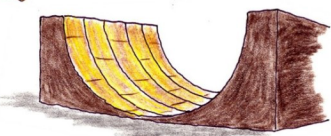
- Draw on resources from local healthcare facilities (or from the Amputee Coalition); many videos, books and online resources are available to help children understand limb differences.



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"Look at that Skateboard ramp, Leggo. Let's try it out." said Louie



"It doesn't look very exciting," said Leggo, "but, if you want to, OK."



They went back and forth, up and down, faster and faster. It was very exciting!

The other kids really enjoyed watching them. When it was time to go home, Leggo didn't want to leave.



"That was a good idea, Louie, let's do that again." said Leggo.

