

# If You Were A Dinosaur, Would You Hold the Door?

A Story About Autism  
And Helping Others

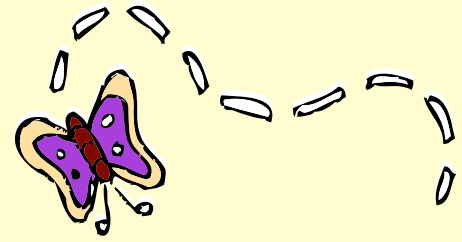


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HOLD THE DOOR  
FOR OTHERS™



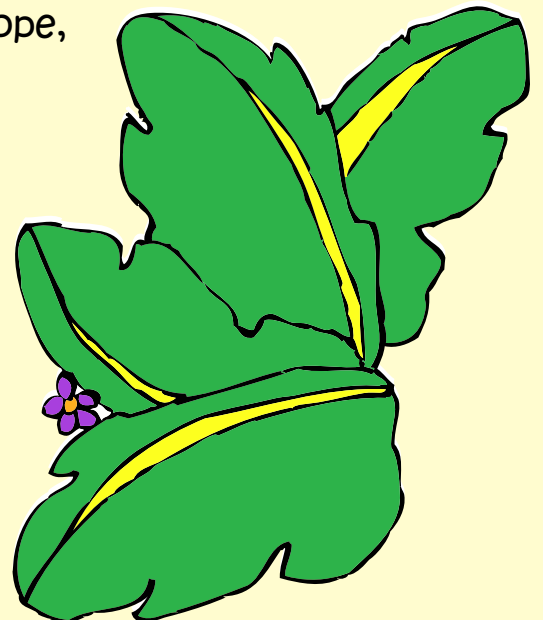
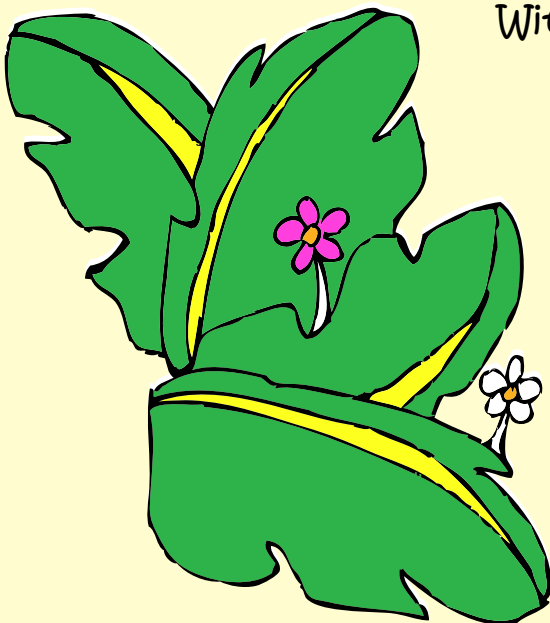
I dedicate this book to each and every child with ASD (autism spectrum disorder) I have been fortunate to connect with over the years. Some of the most precious moments of my life have been spent with you. You have been remarkable teachers of mine and I feel grateful that you trust me and let me into your world.



To the families of children with ASD, I also dedicate this book to you. Your love, strength, hope, and unwavering dedication to your children is a force like no other. Your children are lucky to have such extraordinary individuals as their leaders and their greatest fans.

With Warm Regards and Hope,

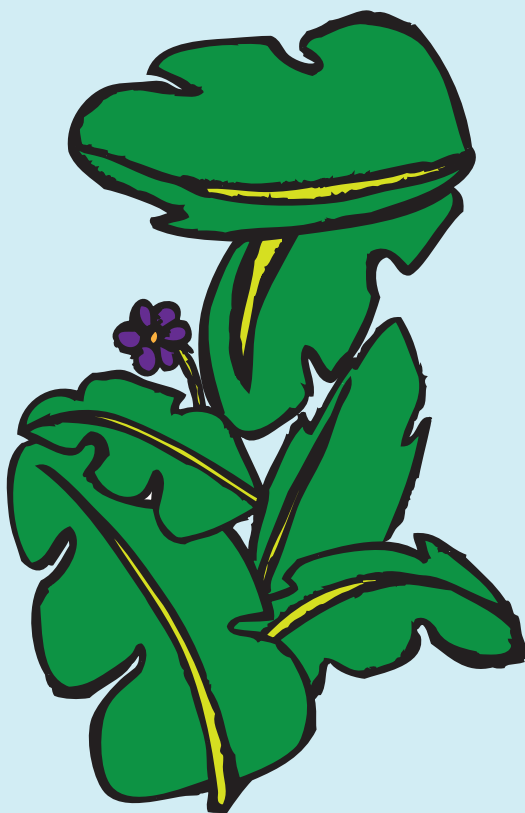
Breanna





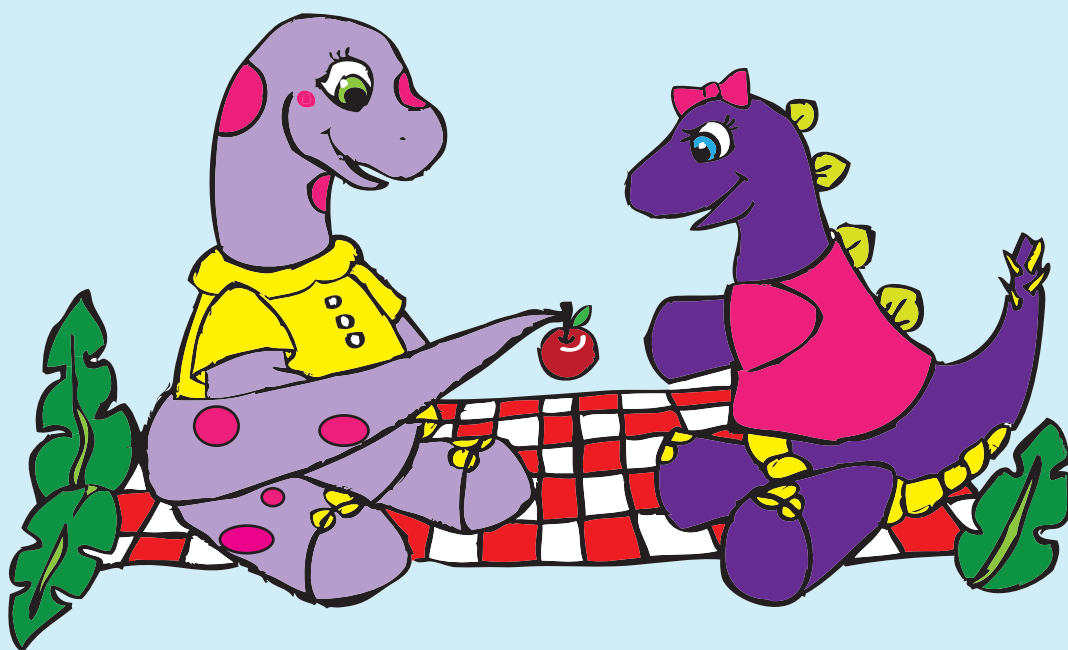
If you were a dinosaur,  
would you hold the door?  
Listen up, let us tell you more.

If you choose, this story can be  
of great significance, it can  
show you how to make a big difference.



Have you ever shared your lunch?

Did that person like it a bunch?



Have you ever seen someone

who was crying and sad?

Then once you talked to them,

they were glad?



Dinosaurs, like children, love to play.

Let's take a look at what they're doing today.



There are some ways that you  
and dinosaurs are alike.

Look at this, they can ride your bike!

These dinosaurs live in a world different than yours.  
Sometimes they need help getting through doors.



If you were a dinosaur,  
would you help someone through the door?

There are some things that are really cool.

For dinosaurs, outside is where they always have school,  
sometimes even in a pool.





Just like children, not every  
dinosaur is the same.

Dakota is this special dinosaur's name.

If you ask him a question once,  
he may not answer.

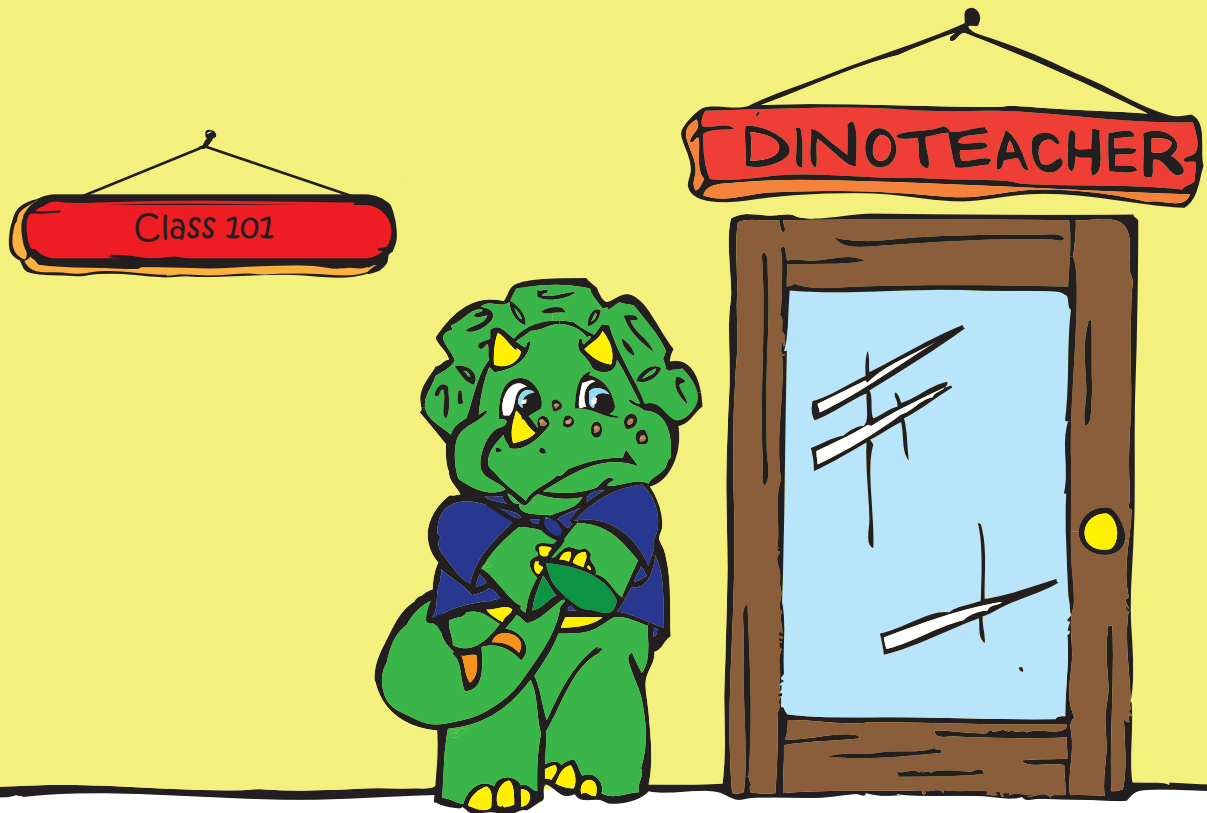
If you keep asking,  
you may find he's a good dancer.



He may repeat the same words once or twice, but when you  
understand him, you may see that he's really nice!

A lot of times, Dakota may seem shy.

If you were a dinosaur,  
would you say Hi?





Datoka may act in a way that you don't understand, like when he keeps moving his hands.

Sometimes Dakota may cry and scream, like you would if you had a bad dream.



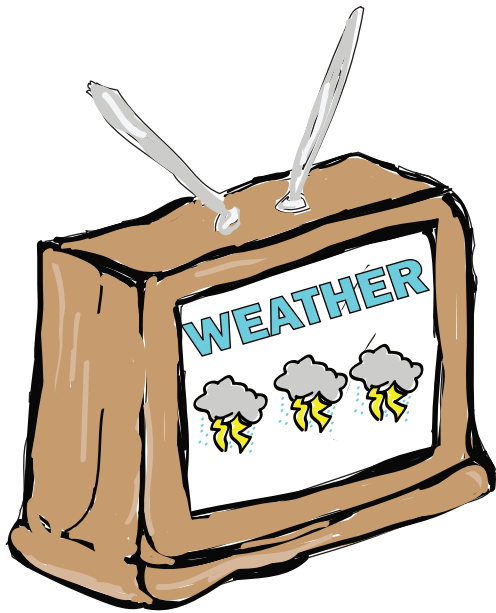
Here's something very important that we all need to know, he's not acting this way just to put on a show.

Dakota's mind and body act in a different way.

He has something called autism, but that's okay.

Although differences you can see, just like you, he likes pizza and TV.

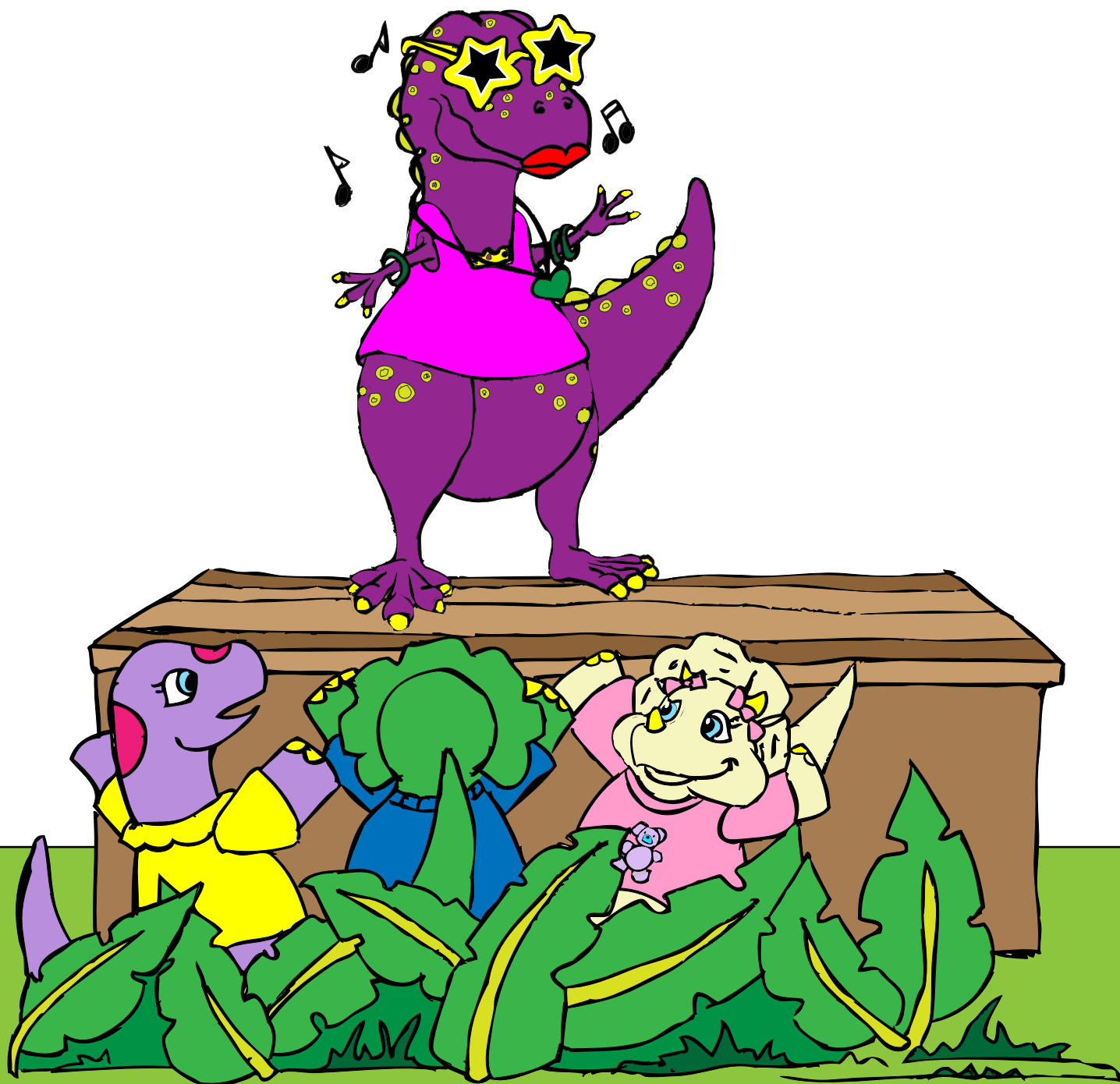




Like everyone, Dakota has special skills. We're about to tell you one that will give you the chills. That time of the year was getting close, the time that every dinosaur loves the most.



Dinostar was almost here. She was coming for the biggest celebration of the year. Dinostar can sing, Dinostar can dance, Dinostar makes everyone boogie like they have ants in their pants!

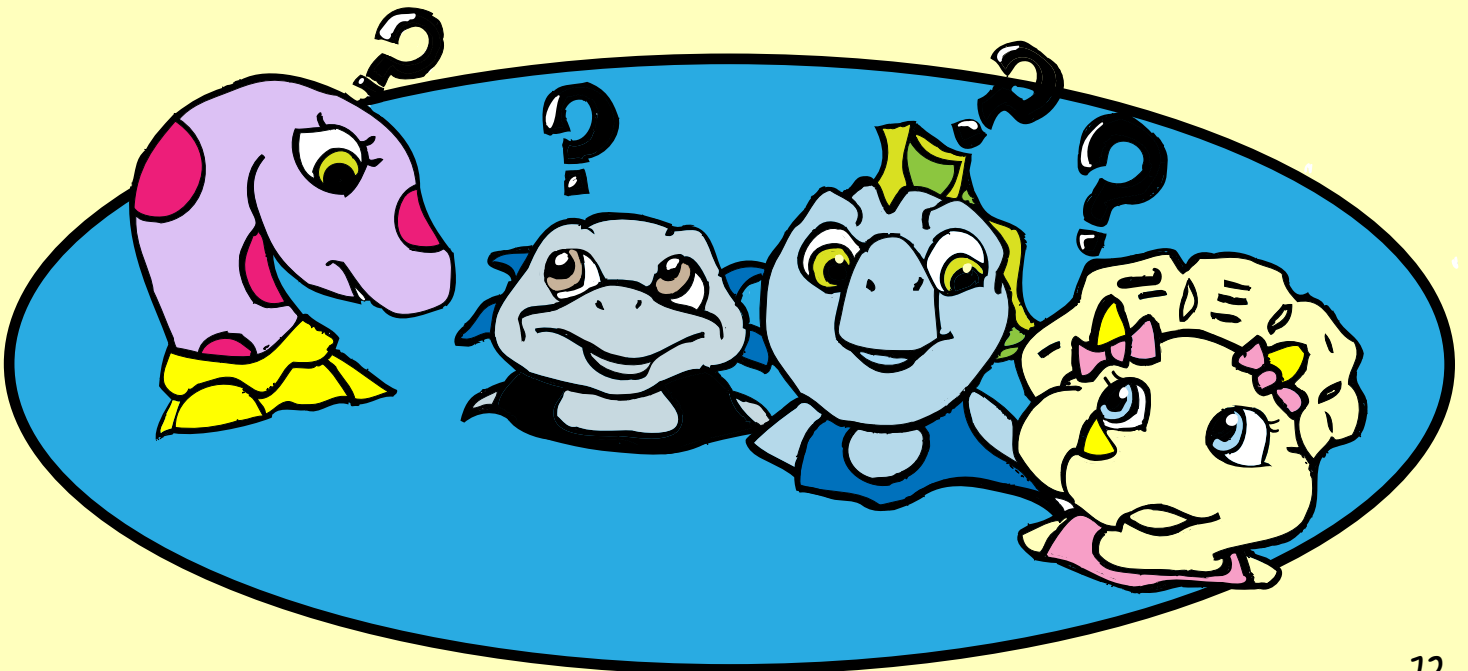




The day before the big show,  
Dakota tried to let everyone know.

He believed with his whole heart that a thunderstorm was going to start. His fellow dinomates didn't believe him at all.

They couldn't understand why he thought the rain was going to fall. But, what the other dinomates couldn't see is that Dakota loved to study weather history.



While all the others wouldn't pay attention, Hope remembered something her GrandDino mentioned:



"Always find a way to hold a door a day.  
Every dinomate has strengths of  
their own, find a way to make them  
known."

Now Hope knew she had to find a way  
to get Dakota's message across today.



Hope then went to the rest and  
talked about what each of them could  
could do best.



Reese can really kick the  
soccer ball!



Ceci is the  
best shopper in the mall!





Then there is Lilli who can really read.

Have you heard,  
when it comes to drums,  
Micah takes the lead.

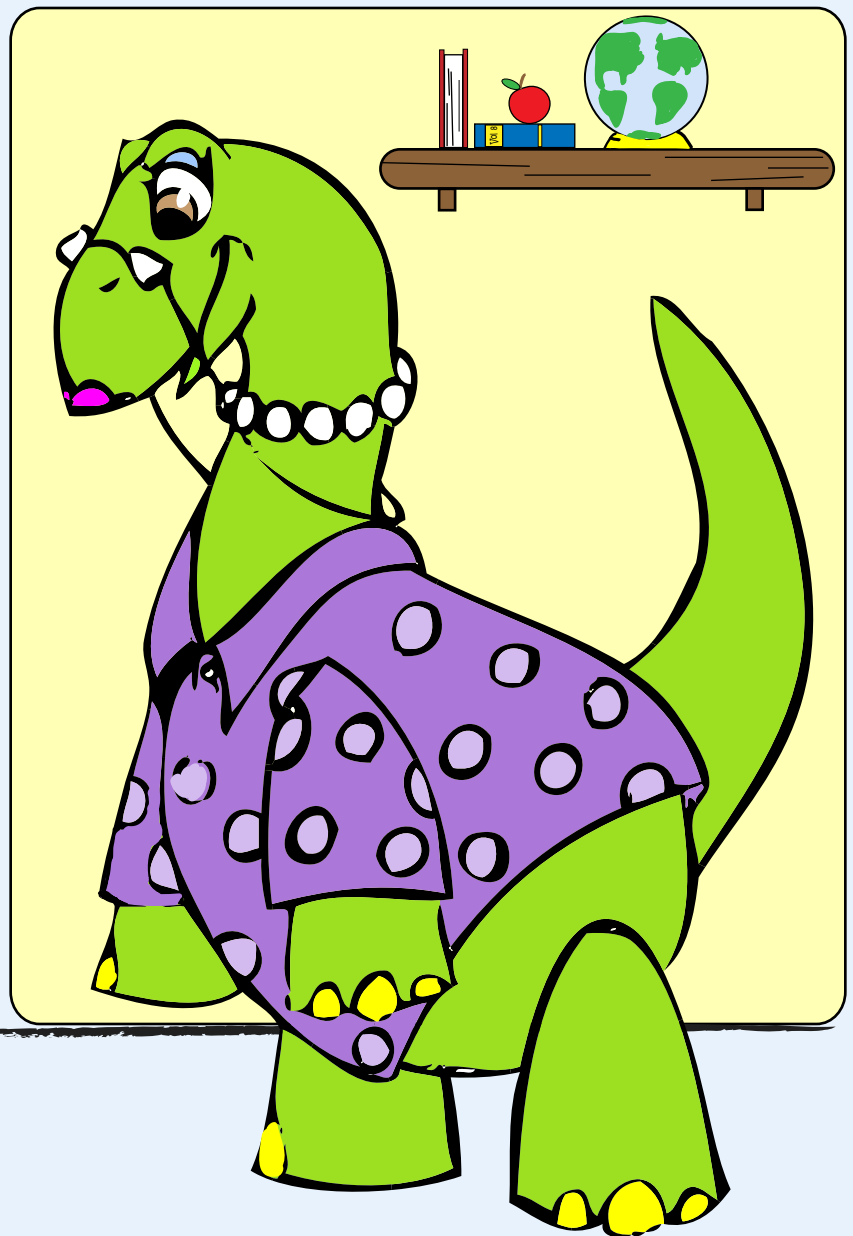


“So, you can see, all of us do  
different things well.  
Please let’s listen to what  
Dakota has to tell.”



The dinomates decided to trust, so they went to their teacher so they could discuss.

The Dinoteacher listened and was oh so proud. She decided to do something before there was a wet crowd.



She was still nervous because she didn't know what to do.

She looked to Dakota who said, "We'll be fine after two."

The next day it rained and they thought the party was through, then all of the sudden the rain stopped at two.

All the Dinokids thanked Dakota for saving the day and promised to believe in him in every way. Dakota turned to Hope and said, "Thank you for believing in me more and more." Hope replied, "Let's find another way to hold the door."



If you were a dinosaur, would you hold the door?



HOLD THE DOORS FOR OTHERS is a nonprofit organization inspired by the acts of Ronald C. Fazio, Sr., who was last seen holding the door for his colleagues to escape the World Trade Center on September 11th.

Hold the Door for Others is dedicated to empowering people to grow through the loss and adversity to achieve their dreams. The Hold the Door Team provides resources and hosts events for people regardless of how they lost a loved one or which adversity they face. Hold the Door Day is an annual event where interactive workshops encourage children and adults to turn to one another, connect, and learn skills on how to grow through adversity.

There is a need for all children to be more understanding and accepting of those who are different from themselves. We know adversity takes a variety of forms. Autism is more present than ever and it continues to be a challenge to more and more families. Today many children with autism are in mainstream/inclusive classrooms. The need for understanding and acceptance is more crucial than ever. Our hope is to teach children the value of empathy and helping others. This book can do this through teaching children who are free from the complexities of autism about autism and the vast value of simply believing in someone.

You can stay connected to us and learn more about Hold the Door through our website.



Hold the Door For Others, P.O. Box 755, Closter, NJ 07624  
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