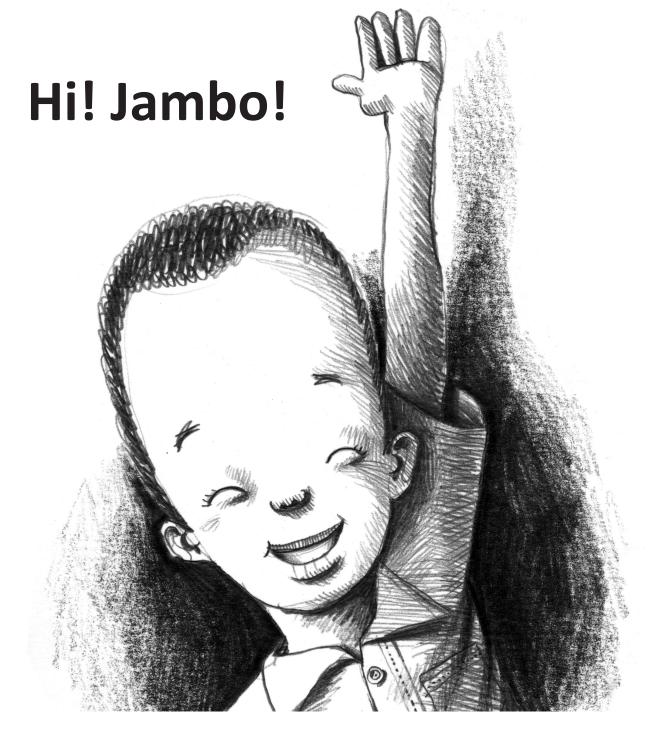
## "Welcome to school"



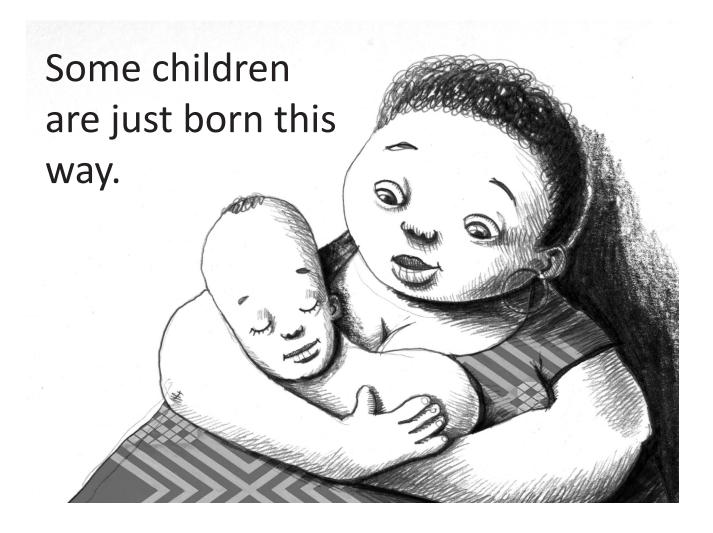


I am coming to school for the first time and I am so happy!
I'm looking forward to being together with the teacher and all the other children.

Like all the other children I am very special.

I also have something called **Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus.** 

I was born this way and the doctor says it is neither my fault nor my mother's.



## Spina Bifida

Spina Bifida is a neural tube defect, the most common group of birth defects. It affects the central nervous system (the brain and nerves). It occurs in the womb of the mother in the early weeks of pregnancy when the spinal cord fails to form properly. This results in impaired nerve signals between the brain and the rest of the body.

## **Hydrocephalus**

Hydrocephalus (also called "water on the brain") means that there is too much spinal fluid inside the head of the child. This situation will need surgical intervention or an operation. A child with hydrocephalus might have cognitive problems and learning difficulties.

There are great variations in how disabled the child will be and the educational consequences of these conditions. I have the same wishes and dreams and I want to learn like all other children. With a little bit of help I will do great.

Since my legs are weak I may need help to get into the school.

To **sit in front of the class** near the teacher will make it easier to listen and learn.

I need access to a toilet.

My school work will be better when I have a little break now and then.

I may need an **extra explanation** from the teacher or another pupil to be able to understand.



Please check up that I have really understood.

Oh, how I look forward to be with all the other children in school and in the playground!



## For more information:

International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus: www.ifglobal.org

Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (UK): www.asbah.org

- > ASBAH Community
- > Education Information Sheets

Enabling Education Network (EENET): www.eenet.org.uk

This brochure is developed by the International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus and the Norwegian Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (RHF) | Illustrated by Bert Dombrecht



