

A TRUE FRIEND



Kamden and Paul are best friends. They met in kindergarten and what brought them together was their love for superheroes and funny videos. Although Kamden is paralyzed and is in a wheelchair, his friend Paul never acted like his friend was different. The fact that Kamden had a wheelchair didn't matter one bit. Paul and Kamden have been best friends ever since. Kamden will probably be in a wheelchair for the rest of his life, but he doesn't let that fact get him down. In fact, he makes the most of it. In his free time, he plays adaptive basketball and he and Paul play together like any other 8-year-old kid.

One day, while Kamden and Paul were playing, Kamden's wheelchair tipped forward and he fell to the ground. Paul was horrified. But then he realized that it happened because Kamden had outgrown his wheelchair. Besides, his wheelchair was too heavy and it was difficult for Kamden to push it. It also could not fit into the bathroom, so Kamden's mother always had to carry him. The problem was that insurance only pays for a new wheelchair every five years and it is not often enough for a growing boy. Kamden's parents couldn't afford another chair and then Paul decided to do something about it. After the boys finished up second grade this summer, Paul told his mother that he wanted to help Kamden get a newly wheelchair. His mum helped him start this Go Fund Me Page with a goal of \$ 3,900 – enough for a new fitted wheelchair for Kamden. In 26 days they raised \$ 5,935, fully covering the cost of a much better and

lighter wheelchair. Kamden can push himself easier and do so much more. Kamden is so happy and he says: 'Paul is so helpful and he just thinks about me.'

Kamden's mum says: 'Paul doesn't see Kamden as someone who has a disability, he sees him as Kamden. Because of that Kamden truly is himself around him.' She feels so grateful for Paul's kindness.

A Answer the questions.

- 1 What things did Paul and Kamden have in common when they first met?
- 2 Why is Kamden in a wheelchair?
- 3 Does Kamden do any sport?
- 4 What was the problem with the wheelchair?
- 5 Why did Kamden's mother have to carry him into the bathroom?
- 6 How did Paul decide to help his friend?
- 7 How much money did they raise?
- 8 What's the new wheelchair like?

B What do you think of this true story?

Here's what some psychologists say. Do you agree with what they say?

- Parents must teach their children that everyone is different.
- Although people have different abilities, both physical and cognitive, we are more alike than different.
- It is important to understand that disability is just part of human differences.
- It is better to use positive, person-first language e.g. 'person or child with a disability', not 'disabled person or child'.