

Author's Note

Jenna Ansell

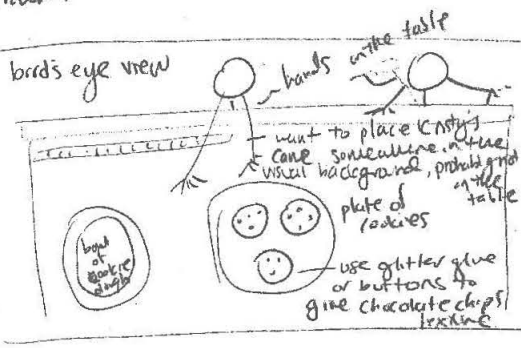
When writing *Cooking with Krissy*, I wanted to tell a story about a young girl who is blind, but I did not want it to be explicitly stated. In class, we talked a lot about universal design and appeal—every child should be able to participate and see some part of themselves in the story and have fun while doing so. Using cooking, or baking, as a medium, allows each reader to relate to what Krissy is experiencing. Blindness stands out, I think, due to its unique connection to the five senses. Children learn at an early age how we learn about the world through sight, smell, taste, touch and sounds. Blindness or a “total lack of seeing” can be seen as a loss of one of the five senses. In my book, I wanted each page to focus on one sense to allow the reader to see the contribution it brings and emphasize each sense as an addition, instead of focusing on the “loss” of one. I also incorporated at least one tactile element on each page to engage readers with various cognitive and physical/motor abilities. I added some braille elements to promote independence in readers who are blind since they can experience the text in the book themselves as well.

My concluding message was meant to show how difference does not equate to being lesser than. Just because you experience the world differently from someone else, or even a majority of someone else's, does not mean you are experiencing it in the “wrong” way or the bad way, it simply means you are experiencing it your own way. Finding commonalities and being able to empathize with others is the best way we can navigate through the world. Sharing that message with children is one powerful way to fight stigmas and make simple steps towards acceptance and inclusion of all types of children.

- back has a focus on aspects including children with visual impairment

Cooking with Kristy

thick board pages with page numbers to make it easier to turn them



background = a kitchen island with baking bowls, flour measuring cups, mixing spoons and colorful yellow, pinks, light green and blue (pastels)

Lets bake some cookies!

TOUCH

close up of Kristy's hands touching the dough

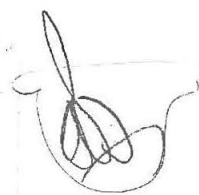


Kristy says the cookie dough feels soft and squishy like sand and playdoh

sand 80 50

whisk

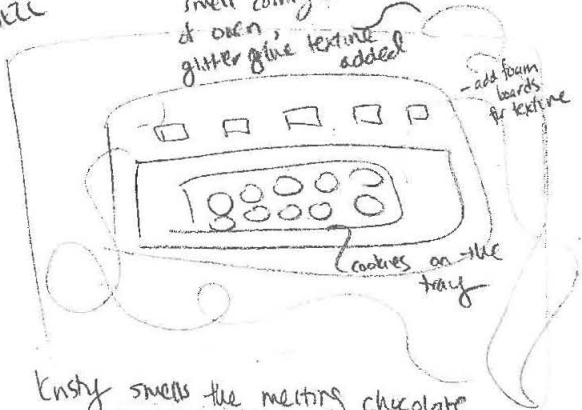
- have the words in braille below as well



Kristy hears the whisk, whisk, whisking and the dough stick, sticky, sticking in the bowl

SMELL

smell coming out of oven, glitter glue texture added - add foam boards for texture



Kristy smells the melting chocolate making her feel warm throughout her whole body

TASTE

add strings for hair texture



the warm chocolate chip create an EXPOSURE (taste) in Kristy's mouth

SIGHT

Everything Kristy feels, hears, smells and tastes allows Kristy to

SEE (braille)

the world around her



THE END

Can we cook with Kristy again!