

# North American Inclusion Month

# NAIM

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE JEWISH COMMUNITY

## My Perfect Child

by *Anonymous*

*Suggested ages: 7<sup>th</sup> grade +*

As my children were born,  
I wanted them to be perfect.

When they were babies,  
I wanted them to smile and be content playing with their toys.  
I wanted them to be happy and to laugh continually  
Instead of crying and being demanding.  
I wanted them to see the beautiful side of life.

As they grew older,  
I wanted them to be giving instead of selfish.  
I wanted them to skip the terrible twos.  
I wanted them to stay innocent forever.

As they became teenagers,  
I wanted them to be obedient and not rebellious, mannerly and not  
mouthy.

I wanted them to be full of love, gentle and kindhearted.  
“Oh, God, give me a child like this” was often my prayer.  
One day He did. Some call him handicapped...I call him Perfect!



For more information contact:  
Yachad, The National Jewish Council for Disabilities



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## Discussion Questions

- 1) What is the authors message about being perfect?
- 2) Were you surprised by the ending of poem? If yes, why do you think you were surprised?
- 3) What is the author saying about how people are perceived based on a label and what their potential really is?
- 4) Do you think this reflects the attitude that most parents would have? Why or why not?
- 5) Who do you pick to be your friends? Do you think you have similarly high expectations for who you choose to be your friends? Do you think this is fair?
- 6) How does this piece relate to the message of NAIM: North American Inclusion Month



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