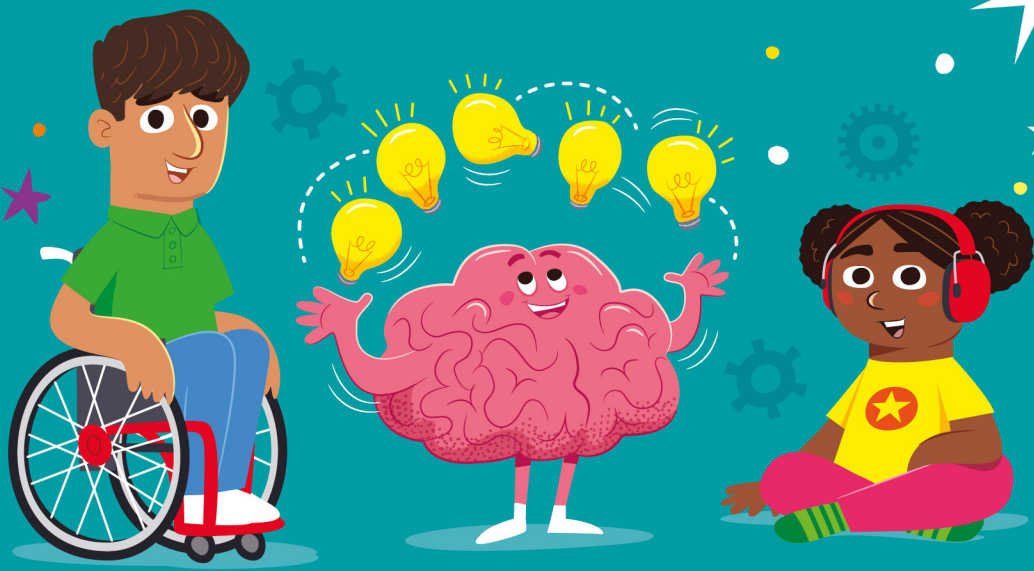
ALL BRAINS ARE WONDERFUL



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For Emily, whose way of looking at the world helps me to understand my own. – S.E.

For Otis & Lenny. Be kind and always believe in yourselves. I'm SO proud of you both. Love Dad xx. – T.B.F.H.



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CONTENTS

6-7 ABOUT THIS BOOK

SCIENCE

8-9 BRAINY BEINGS

10-11 YOUR BRAIN'S BEGINNING

12-13 THE BOSS OF YOUR BODY

14-15 UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

16-17 TRAIN YOUR BRAIN

18-19 FACING BRAIN CHALLENGES

SOCIETY

20-21 NEURODIVERSITY

22-23 PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

24-25 DISCRIMINATION

26-27 IS NEURODIVERGENCE A DISABILITY?

TAKING ACTION

28-29 MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

30-31 MINDFUL MAINTENANCE

32-33 WHAT CAN YOU DO?

34-36 GLOSSARY

ABOUT THIS BOOK

This book is a celebration of ALL brains!
Read on to find out about ...

... the fascinating journey your brain takes as it develops during your life.

... the amazing things happening inside your brain, which make you who you are.



... how even though our brains may look similar, each and every one is unique.



... how you can make a difference in the world, and how the world can shape you too.



... ways to discover more about your brain and feel proud of the wonderful one you have.

Your brain is incredible!



Let's find out why ...

BRAINY BEINGS

Your brain is *incredible*. It works non-stop to keep you breathing, moving, thinking, feeling, learning and so much more. And the best part? It's unique to you, making it a V.I.B – a Very Individual Brain!

However, humans aren't the only ones with brains. Other animals have them too, in all shapes and sizes.

The award for the biggest brain goes to ...

... the sperm whale, while larval sea squirts hold the record for the smallest.

Yay! (I think!)

A larval sea squirt's brain has only 300 cells, compared with the tens of billions of cells that make up a human brain.

Brain-body mass ratio tells us how big an animal's brain is in comparison to its body.

The sperm whale has a **1:5100** ratio, which means their brains are big but their bodies are massive!

Humans have a **1:40** brain-body mass ratio.

Small ants have a **1:7** ratio. Big brains for their tiny bodies!

But brace yourself to meet the bony-eared assfish (yes, that's its real name), whose brain is less than 0.1% of its weight.

Having a bigger brain doesn't always mean being smarter, though. And some animals, such as jellyfish and starfish, don't have a brain at all! Neither do trees and plants, but they have parts that behave like brains to help control how they grow, take in water and respond to light.

But enough about them – let's focus on you! Curious about your brain before you were born? Get ready for some brain-boggling secrets...