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# STARBRITE Traveler: A Travel Resource For Parents Of Children With Special Needs



## Synopsis

Starbrite Traveler: A Travel Resource for Parents of Children with Special Needs Starbrite Traveler is a groundbreaking illustrated guide that gives families a well-organized, confidence building, easy to read, travel resource. This guide holds the reader's hand every step of the way, from dreaming about travel to arriving at their destination. Follow the 5 D's of travel, Dream, Determine, Dry Run, Depart, and Destinations to plan an amazing trip for your family. LEARN HOW YOU CAN: Plan the best vacation for everyone in your family Identify special provisions and accessibility for your child with special needs Teach and reinforce vacation safety with our illustrated activities Address challenging behaviors by applying evidenced based strategies Use checklists, questionnaires, worksheets and timelines to plan your trip

## Book Information

Paperback: 268 pages

Publisher: Starbrite Kids' Travel, LLC; 1 edition (May 14, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0988838605

ISBN-13: 978-0988838604

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,472,360 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #71 in Books > Travel > Specialty Travel > Special Needs #875 in Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Special Education > Behavioral Disorders #2315 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Special Needs > Disabilities

## Customer Reviews

An illustrated family-vacation planning and resource guide for parents of children with physical, developmental, and mental disabilities. In their debut work, Jones and Keiper, both special-education teachers, present insights gleaned from their teaching experience. Good planning is key, a process they've broken down into the five Ds: Dream, imagine the kind of trip desired; Determine, figure out what special provisions will be needed; Dry Run, practice potentially difficult situations; Departure, draft a timeline and checklist; and Destination, list last-minute details, tips and reminders. The authors continually stress safety, and vignettes, tips, exercises and worksheets round out the book. Some of this advice is common sense for any traveler, but most is

directly, thoughtfully targeted to disabled children's needs, such as how to help a child with ADHD withstand long waits or an autistic child deal with changes in routine. If a child can't snorkel the usual way, "an inflatable raft with a window is the way to go." Or, for blind children: "Create an accessible map of the travel plan...by gluing string on a map outlining the route." A good tip for autism-spectrum children is the Autism Theatre Initiative, which presents Broadway shows in autism-friendly environments; spectrum kids can also greatly benefit from the book's discussion on using stories to alleviate anxiety. The authors offer strategies for various common scenarios, such as making a picture scrapbook ahead of time for anxious children meeting unfamiliar relatives or, if safety is a concern, making a "Pick the Safe Picture" book for children to identify rule-following behavior. Kids should know what to expect and what's expected of them. Practical, doable and backed by evidence-based research, the guidelines and tips offered here make an excellent resource. An extremely useful, well-organized guide to planning a successful family vacation with special-needs children.

Jesemine Jones and Ida Keiper are co-founders of the Starbrite Kids Program that specializes in planning travel for families with a child with special needs. They have 50 years of combined experience educating children with a broad spectrum of disabilities. Together, they have hosted workshops and participated in special needs conferences, published articles in magazines, as well as a series of articles online for Kidsville News! Ms. Jones earned a Masters of Social Work from Rutgers University as well as a B.A. in Special Education from Georgian Court University. She is currently a social worker in the New Jersey public school system. A former special education teacher, mental health therapist, lead counselor of a therapeutic foster care program, and team leader for an alternative high school for classified students, Ms. Jones has extensive experience working with children with special needs as well as their families. Ms. Jones lives in New Jersey with her husband and daughters. Ms. Keiper is dually certified as Teacher of the Handicapped and Elementary School Education. She earned a B.A. from Georgian Court University. Ms. Keiper, a highly qualified teacher educated children with disabilities for thirty years, wrote district curriculum for special education, coordinator of special education department in New Jersey public schools. Her compassion and professionalism earned her "Teacher of the Year." Over the years Ms. Keiper has fostered close relationships with her students and parents. Ms. Keiper lives in New Jersey with her husband and two sons. Emily A. Jones, Ph. D, BCBA-D, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at Queens College. Dr. Jones teaches courses in applied behavior analysis and developmental disabilities. She also provides training and technical

assistance to families, school districts, and other service providers to support children with developmental disabilities in inclusive settings. Dr. Jones's research involves the development and demonstration of interventions to address early emerging core deficits in young children with developmental disabilities such as autism and Down syndrome. Bree Rubin earned her MFA in Design and Technology from Parsons The New School for Design. She is an artist, illustrator, and designer living and working in New York City. Chris Church is a recent graduate of the University of Delaware with a BFA in visual communications.

Starbrite Traveler is a comprehensive travel guide for families with special needs children. Jones and Keiper are well versed in the needs of this population and have brought their considerable expertise to the table. I have worked as a special educator and a social worker for 28 years. This book is ground breaking for families trying to negotiate their way through the process of traveling and more importantly fulfilling the dreams of their children. The book has excellent information for anyone who is traveling with a special need circumstance. The book has all the information a family could require in one portable and user friendly book. Bravo!

A must read book. The information was very helpful to my family. As a mother of a special needs child I felt confident about traveling with my child. It was comforting to learn about the various places to visit and what to expect. I shared the book with my co workers ,cant wait to read the next book .

This book has so much information in it for every one traveling with special needs children, but also for special needs adults and children with out special needs. It is written so well with information that is current and easy to understand.

The authors know all aspects of having a fantastic family vacation for those with children with special needs. Clearly written, easy to apply with realistic advice. I found it amazingly insightful and down to earth. I highly recommend it.

I recently picked up a copy of this book and was genuinely impressed with its thoroughness, attention to detail, and the wealth of tips on how to put together a great vacation. The book is easy to read and divided into sections that make finding just the information you want or need easy and fast. As someone who has worked with special needs children for over 30 years and having several special needs children in my family, I cannot tell you how great it is to find this resource. So many

parents over the years have told me how they limited their vacation plans, or worse did not even have family vacations simply because they were unsure of just how to have fully included one of their children. This book solves that problem. I give it my unqualified recommendation and hope it ends up on the shelves of parents everywhere!

Not only has Starbrite Traveler helped many children already.... this book is on it's way to changing the lives of millions of families. I had the pleasure on meeting Jesse and Ida (the authors) at the book show in NYC and I assure you their passion to get the word out to theses families and make millions of peoples lives easier is contagious. I already shared the book to many of schools, libraries and hospitals. This is the first Travel Guide for Parents of Speacial Needs Children I have ever encountered. thank you again for sharing the knowlegde....

Starbrite Traveler is an excellent book detailing how children with special needs are able to have fulfilling life and experience the same opportunities as every child. This book provides practical, economic, and accessible vacations and activities. The authors share their vast knowledge of working with children with special needs and professional experience. The book is a great resource for students, educators, medical personnel, parents, and families.

Jones and Keiper bring a wealth of knowledge, insight, and expertise to vacation planning. I couldn't put the book down!My mom is a School Psychologist and I have to say that these gals truly grasp the gravity of the difficulties special needs children and adolescents experience in life and have given families and parents the key to the universe!Really like the NJ travel version, too!Mike T.

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