

## I am a Child

I am a child with special needs  
But I am also a child  
With special gifts  
And all who have known me  
Are more than they were before

I may not speak with words as others do  
But the day I was born  
I carried with me  
Words you never thought you'd hear  
Words you never thought you'd speak  
Words with sharp corners and jagged tips  
That stung when spoken or heard.  
Words that had been neglected and ignored  
But have since become soft and sweet  
Accepted and embraced.

I may not learn as others do  
But each day, I teach  
Lessons of life and of love  
Strength and courage,  
Patience and joy,  
Gratitude, faith and hope.

I may not see as others do  
But through me  
Gifts once unappreciated  
Are seen clearly  
Life itself is viewed with new eyes.

I may not walk or run or dance as others do  
But within my soul -  
Pure and radiantly free -  
I am.

I am a gift to you  
And all who know me  
I am here to teach  
To enlighten and to guide.

And when I must say goodbye  
Do not cry for me  
My pain is gone.  
My work is done.  
Carry on in spite of your grief  
In honor of me  
For I will always be  
Your special child.

By: Kristine J. Pavich, 2003