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Come out come out wherever you are. I've been waiting for you. Welcome to Miss Robins place where "Different isn't bad" and kids can be themselves. This is a podcast just for you!

Have you ever felt different?

Me too.

In today's episode, you will meet my special friend Stubby the cat. He's different too! Stubby is a real cat who lives in my backyard. You can see pictures of him on my website at robinmarie.org. Make sure you always ask your adult for permission to visit. Stubby the cat sees things differently because he only has one eye, kind of like a pirate.

He walks differently because he was born with only three legs instead of four.

Don't worry kids, Stubby is brave and kind just like you.

In today's original story, Stubby is afraid of what his friends will say about him.

Have you ever felt that way?

Me too!

Listen carefully and feel free to pause this podcast at any time to ask questions and discuss feelings with your loved ones.

Ready, Set, here we go!

Episode 1 - Different Isn't Bad

Snuggling down into the warmth of his safe little bed, Stubby winked, as the sunlight blinded his eye.

"Time to wake up," mother said.

"Ok, Mama," Stubby replied.

Stretching his little stump, Stubby started to wiggle, moving back and forth, back and forth, inching his way out of his cozy bed.

The smell of freshly cut grass filled the air. It was summer and Stubby wanted to play with his friends.

“Come out and play!” they shouted. “Let’s have a cat adventure.”

But Stubby was afraid.

“I’m afraid,” he cried. “Don’t you know, I AM DIFFERENT!”

Then he crawled back into his mother’s

Licking his furry little face, mother cat whispered, “You can do it, Stubby. Don’t be afraid, just ask for help.

Remember, different isn’t bad. It’s just different.”

Mother was always right.

“I will try,” he said.

Slowly moving out into the yard, Stubby was still afraid, but today, he was determined to have FUN.

Stubby used his tail to balance, and his left eye to focus, as he chased lizards around the yard, watching them dart in and out from behind the BIG RED WAGON!.

He practiced his pouncing. It looked a little different, but that was ok, after all, he WAS different!

Every time he fell down, he got back up again. If he thought his friends were laughing at him, Stubby would whisper the words mama told him.

“Different isn’t bad. It’s just different. Different isn’t bad. It’s just different”

Sometimes he asked for help.

“Will you help me, my friends?”

YES! they would say. Stubby smiled.

The day had been full of exciting adventures. Stubby was tired.

“Mama.” he asked, “Why was I born different?”

Leaning over, Mama Cat pulled her baby close.

Stubbies ears perked up. He knew what was coming next.

Mama had whispered the same thing in his ear every night since the day he was born.

“Stubby,” Mama said.

“Are you grateful that you have three good legs and a tail to balance as you run?”

“Yes, Mama,” he replied.

“Stubby, are you grateful you have one good eye, that helps you see the good in others.”

“Yes, Mama,” he replied.

“Stubby” mama said in a soft hushed voice.

“You are BRAVE and you are KIND. Be proud that you are different because different isn’t bad, it’s just different”

Closing his eyes, Stubby heard the bluebird chirping in the BIG oak tree, as the sun began to set.

“Tomorrows a new day, just show them your heart.” she chirped “People will like YOU if your YOU from the start”

Closing his eyes Stubby imagined butterflies and puffy clouds, lizards, and BIG RED wagons. FEAR would not keep him from another great day of cat adventures.

“It’s good to be me” he sighed. “I am BRAVE. I am KIND and I am DIFFERENT

Then he fell asleep with a smile on his face and bounced in tail.

So now is your turn kids! Pause the podcast after each question and discuss them with someone you love and trust.

Remember there are no right or wrong answers.

1. What was different about Stubby?
2. Why was he afraid to go out and play?
3. What did Stubby's mama tell him that made him feel better?
4. Do you ever feel different? Why?
5. How can you help someone who is different feel better?

Thank you for sharing your time with me. These short children's stories were meant to feel like the old time "Sit around the Radio" broadcast that were so popular during turbulent times in our past. It's a place my heart often yearns to return to. A place where families gathered together, listening to stories that made them laugh and cry! It was a simpler time.

So If you enjoyed this episode and want to hear more about the adventures of Stubby the cat, be looking for them every Friday. There you can sit down, connect and make a difference in the life of your child.

As always you can find me Miss Robin in many places. On Instagram, Facebook and my website at www.robinmarie.org where you will find all my podcasts with show notes for our listening impair friends.

I'd love to hear YOUR stories so again visit my website at www.robinmarie.org and share them with me.

There's a resource page full of things for families to look at and for families to do.

That's all for now.

