Ellie Barclay, Amani’s teacher – So I taught Amani when she was in Grade 1, so this was a few years ago now, she's now in Grade 4. She was quite shy and wouldn't speak up a lot, so it was really great to see her thrive throughout Grade 1, when she was able to form some really good friendships, she was able to get confidence in herself and comfort into her learning. As a school we have individual learning plans and I wrote one for Amani to support her, to develop her academic goals but also social/emotional goals as well. Amani participated in all the lessons that all of her peers did, and she actually learnt a huge amount from that. If we had just restricted or limited her learning, then that would have limited her growth. So making sure she had as much educational opportunities as possible was really important.

It's incredibly important for Amani's peers because they've been able to see that first and foremost she's a person. She's a child that wants to learn, she's a child that wants to have friends, and play with her friends. They're able to understand diversity better, that we're all different and that's absolutely okay. And that someone who might have Down syndrome can still do everything that they set their mind to. They're able to learn inclusion and diversity, so having Amani in our grade has been absolutely important for all of us.