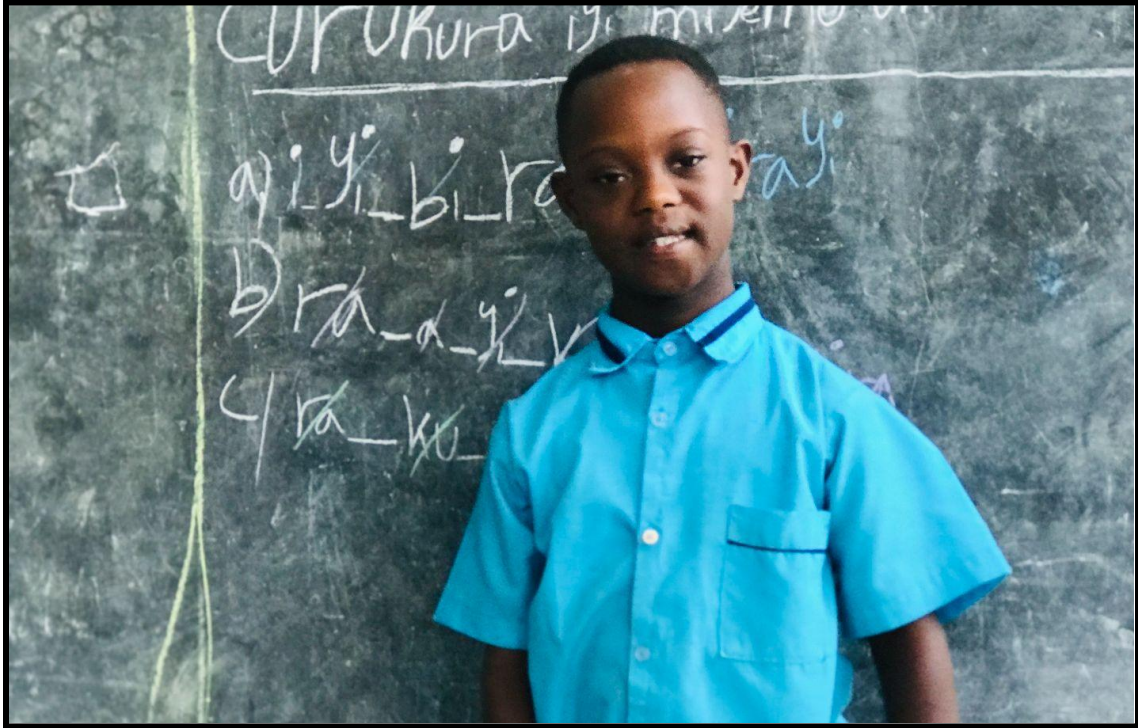


ASHER'S STORY

A Bright School P1 Student With Down Syndrome



Asher is eager to learn more about his mother tongue, Kinyarwanda.

When Asher started at Bright

Due to a poor understanding of the needs of a child with Down syndrome, Asher had struggled to progress academically, socially, or emotionally in previous schools. In mid-2022, Asher's father, Jean Claude Nsengimana, met with Jan Brown, TEACH Rwanda's founder and president. The three of them visited a P1 classroom and they discussed Bright School's innovative approach to inclusive education. Asher immediately found an interesting book about animals to enjoy.

In September 2022, Asher entered Bright School. Asher was non-verbal, so he used gestures to communicate. At the age of 7, he was still learning how to form friendships and was often physically aggressive toward other children.

After Asher's first 3 months at Bright



Asher uses blocks to construct a building, using a wall for balance.

Shortly after he enrolled, Asher began making friends and finding more ways to communicate with his teacher and his peers. When he saw Jan on a day that the class was reenacting a wedding, (Asher was pretending to be the pastor) he excitedly gestured to her and said "Jan, come!" He proudly showed her a block he was using as an imaginary camera.

Asher's gentle and kind teacher, Jean d'Amour, soon found that "Asher now knows how to pronounce a few of the names of children in his class."

Asher is thriving at Bright



Asher is making many friends at Bright School. Photo by Ana Kenk

Asher's father is delighted that Bright School teachers assess children on multiple areas of their development, not just academics. With the continued support of his teacher and a volunteer classroom assistant, Asher has adapted well to his new environment and made amazing progress.

Asher especially enjoys reading books and engaging in pretend play. He is the first to welcome visitors to the classroom. Outdoors, he eagerly jumps on the tire climber, pushes his classmates in a wheelbarrow, and invents games with his friends. As part of our inclusion process, Asher took part in the government's required mid-term exams just like his classmates.



Benjamin, a German volunteer, has become Asher's reading companion, and much more.

Asher's future is bright

Supporting children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) like Asher is something Bright School teachers feel passionate about. Our education staff work together with families to set specific goals every term that help each learner achieve their potential. For Asher, this includes tapping into his love of the piano to help him make connections between symbols and speech, an early literacy understanding.

Asher's success story highlights how children with special needs are supported to achieve their potential through careful interventions and the nurturing care and expertise of our teachers, volunteers, and staff at Bright School.

Your donation can support children with SEN

Your donation will help TEACH Rwanda mentor more teachers to provide children like Asher with a fulfilling and happy school experience that gives them the chance for a bright future.



Every day, teacher Jean d'Amour guides children in Bright School to gain new skills and understandings, such as estimation, balance, gravity, teamwork, and communication.

Your donation will help TEACH Rwanda...

- Continue to support vulnerable children with Fund a Future Scholarships for high-quality preschool and primary education at Bright School
- Compensate our staff for their professional commitment and growth
- Demonstrate accessible, evidence-based education in Rwanda
- Mentor teachers in child-centered methods that are transforming education in this rapidly developing African country
- Achieve TEACH Rwanda's exciting plans for a permanent campus to mentor Rwandan teachers and children

DONATE TODAY

Help More Vulnerable Children Like Asher Access High-Quality Education

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- Make checks payable to TEACH Rwanda. Mail to TR, 1787-C Chateau Place, Easton, PA 18045 USA

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- Apply for your World MasterCard, designate TEACH Rwanda, and 1% of all purchases are donated to TR.

Request Employer Donation Matches

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