

In the Activity Room: ABL Denim

Everyone wears jeans, don't they? ABL Denim knows that nearly everyone wants to wear jeans, but that sometimes jeans are just not wearable – especially if a child has sensory issues or a physical disability.

ABL Denim specializes in fashionable, "adaptive" jeans for adults, teens and kids with disabilities. There are many jean lines for children who don't have skin sensitivities and can dress themselves. ABL Denim jeans are different! ABL Denim knows that kids want to wear what's in style, just like their friends at school do. They understand the needs because the founder of the company grew up with a brother with developmental disabilities and physical challenges. An accomplished designer in the fashion industry with vast sewing and production knowledge also informs all the functional features that accompany the soft fabric and fashion styling in every jean they make.

They make jeans that are fashionable, and that kids love because they are cute and comfortable and made in denim like any other jean. Parents love them because they are easy to get on, and their kids with tactile sensitivities don't pull them off. The jeans are designed according to instructions from parents and their kids with Sensory Processing Dysfunction, which is a challenge for many children diagnosed with autism and ADHD.

The "Sensory Jean" is an authentic jean that is as soft as a thick t-shirt; durable, yet non-

irritating and washable as a sweat pant. It has no metal zippers or rivets, and fewer seams than on a regular jean. It has an elastic waistband that is turned to the outside so seams won't rub your child's waist. It has back pockets, just like any other jean, but no inside pockets. The jeans sit higher on the back waist, too, for kids who use wheelchairs.

ABL Denim's online store (www.abldenim.com) and personal customer service enables customers to receive guidance about the Sensory Jeans and shorts, to make sure the style is right for them. Some kids using wheelchairs are ready for the teen sizes in the adult styles. Email and phone calls (310-871-8145) are welcome to make sure that you find the right style and size for your child's needs. You can also find ABL Denim at local disability resource shows, school district special education department resource shows, fundraising walks, trade shows including the Abilities Expo across the United States and other events.

They can also customize the jeans for kids who need special features added. Using their original jean designs, they make modifications according to the needs of the child. Once that new jean is made, that personalized pattern can be

re-used to make additional jeans in the future. ABL Denim can also customize a garment for a special occasion. They welcome the opportunity to help your child feel good about what they're wearing.



PHOTO COURTESY ABL DENIM

Adaptive jeans from ABL Denim help kids with special needs dress as comfortably and fashionably as everyone else at school.