

Disability Awareness Activities

Learning more about disabilities helps students develop positive attitudes toward people with disabilities. Providing activities that enhance students' knowledge and understanding of disabilities can:

- Help students accept and understand what it is like for other students who have a disability,
- Ease students' fears about disabilities, and
- Open the door for students to include children with disabilities in their daily interactions in school and in the community.

Below is a list of suggested activities that can be used in the classroom with students of all ages to encourage disability awareness:

- **Presentations** – a puppet show or live theater group can present a play relating to disabilities, or students can attend a play in the community.
- **Field Trips** – visiting a disability-related organization or special event (for example, a celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act).
- **Speakers** – a person who has a disability can speak about their disability, how they do things, what accommodations they need, and how they feel about having a disability. A parent or older student might want to share information about a family member's disability.
- **Poster Display** – students could choose a disability that they would like to know more about, research that disability, and create a poster about the disability.
- **Videos & Films** – students could watch a film or video about people with disabilities and discuss what they have learned.
- **Simulation Activities** – can often be found by searching for “disability awareness activities” for a specific disability. After the activity, students can discuss the barriers they encountered, how it made them feel, how other people reacted to them, what they needed to do differently, and how they could help include someone who has that disability.





Resources for Families

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Partners Resource Network

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- **Report** – students can present a report on a specific disability, a famous person with a disability, sports for people with disabilities, or the laws that are in effect to protect the rights of persons with disabilities.
- **Inventions** – students can design a piece of equipment or technology that might be helpful to a person with a disability.
- **Books** – read books that include persons with disabilities to younger students. Older students could read a book that includes people with disabilities and write a report on the book. Ideas for books can be found in your library or through an online search.

Possible resources:

- Your school district special education staff
- School or community library
- The internet:
 - Search for the answer to a specific question, such as; “How do people who are blind play ball?”
 - Websites for disability organizations



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