



Discovering Inclusion for Kids

Encouraging children to accept differences and build disability awareness.

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What is the Advocacy Network on Disabilities?

Mission

“The Advocacy Network on Disabilities champions the rights of individuals with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities by promoting inclusion, providing services, and advancing systems change.”

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Our Services

- **Family Support:** Experienced, family-friendly staff help people with disabilities and their families identify and access services.
- **All Children Together(ACT):** An initiative of The Children’s Trust, project staff work with the organizations it funds to increase their capacity to provide quality, inclusive programs.
- **Systems Advocacy:** Seeking change that can help many people at once, staff works to change policies, rules or laws that determine how services are provided.

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To successfully complete this training and receive a certificate, you must answer a minimum of **8 out of 10 questions** correctly on the **Learning Assessment** at the end of today's session.

To receive your certificate, please visit:
<http://collabornation.net/login/advocacynetwork>

We welcome you to ask as many questions as you want, and to fully participate in today's activities.



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At the end of this workshop you will be able to:

- Identify resources that encourage children to build awareness and acceptance of children with disabilities.
- Help students understand and accept students with disabilities by engaging in simulation activities.
- Encourage children to appreciate differences.



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Why is it important to promote disability awareness?

- To develop an **understanding of self, others and differences**
- To develop **empathy**
- To develop **acceptance**

“Children do not start out cruel or kind. It is up to adults to teach them how to empathize by imagining others’ feelings. It’s our job to show children how to be respectful and to focus on others’ strengths instead of their weaknesses.”

<http://www.kars4kids.org/blog/talking-to-kids-about-disabilities-6-tips/>



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Words Matter



The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug. - Mark Twain

- "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me!" "No offense, but....." "just joking," "I didn't mean anything by it." How do people's words make us feel?
- People First Language
- Positive Post-its Activity



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How do we introduce and encourage disability awareness?

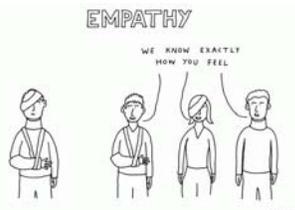
- Modeling positive interactions with children who have disabilities.
- Helping children understand that we are better at some things, than other things.
- Demonstrating what the child *can* do, which is more important than what they cannot do.
- Teaching empathy and understanding.



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Disability Simulations

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Intellectual Disability
- Speech Impairment
- Hearing Impairment
- Learning Disability
- Physical Disability
- Visual Impairment



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Intellectual Disability

Simulation Activity



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Speech Impairment

Inability to produce speech sounds that are necessary to communicate.



- **Affects articulation:** "thagetti" for "spaghetti", "wabbit" for "rabbit".
- **Affects fluency:** Ex: stuttering or false start, which is when you say something, stop in the middle of your sentence and restart with a new idea.
- **Affects voice:** Ex: harsh or hoarse voice, voices that are too high or low, too loud or too nasal.



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Speech Impairment

Simulation Activity



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Hearing Impairment

Prevents a person from totally receiving sounds through the ear.

- If mild, the person has difficulty hearing faint or distant speech, but can use hearing aids to amplify sounds.
- If more severe, the person may not be able to distinguish any sounds.



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Hearing Impairment

Simulation Activity



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Learning Disabilities



Difficulties acquiring knowledge or skills to the level expected of those the same age.

- Problems can interfere with learning basic skills such as reading, writing, and/or math.
- Can interfere with higher level skills such as organization, time planning, abstract reasoning, long or short term memory and attention.
- “Learning Disabilities” is an “umbrella” term describing a number of other, more specific learning disabilities, such as dyslexia and dysgraphia.



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Learning Disability

Simulation Activity



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Physical Disability

Pertains to total or partial loss of person's bodily functions (walking) or part of the body (amputation).

- Ranges from mild to complete immobility



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Physical Disability

Simulation Activity



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Visual Impairment

Person's eyesight cannot be corrected to a normal level



- Inability to see objects clearly
- Inability to see as wide an area without moving the eyes or turning the head.
- Inability to look at light
- Double vision
- Distortion of images
- Difficulties with perception



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Visual Impairment

Simulation Activity



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Encouraging Disability Awareness

- Ask students to define "disability".
- Identify ways that a student with a disability can be a helper.
- Discuss the differences between "good help" (ask first if help is needed) and "poor help" (I'll do it for you).
- Discuss how being different can be a strength.
- Let children know that a disability is not something shameful.



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Resources on Disability Awareness

Websites

- **Disability Awareness Information**
Includes information on People First Language and Disability Etiquette.
<http://www.cpdusu.org/about/committee/awareness/>
- **Promoting Disability Awareness and Acceptance in Childhood Handbook**
Includes activities and resources from 3 years of age up to high school students.
https://wiki.uiowa.edu/download/attachments/34245691/rhab-disability_awareness_manual.pdf
- **Disability Awareness Activity Packets**
Activities and resources for teaching students about disabilities.
http://www.lifeinawheelchair.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Disability_Awareness-packet.pdf
<http://www.indianadisabilityawareness.org/assets/docs/activitiesbooklet.pdf>



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Books

- **Autism** *Rules* by Cynthia Lord
- **Intellectual Disability** *We'll Paint the Octopus Red* by S.A. Bodeen
- **Speech Impairment** *Adam and the Magic Marble* by Adam & Carol Buehrens
- **Hearing Impairment** *Moses Goes to a Concert* by Isaac Millman
- **Learning Disability** *Terrific Teddy's Writing Wars* by Jim Forgan, Ph.D.
- **Physical Disability** *The Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen
- **Visual Impairment** *The Secret Code* by Dana Meachen Rau



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In Conclusion, you should now be able to...

- Identify resources that encourage children to build awareness and acceptance of children with disabilities.
- Help students understand and accept students with disabilities by engaging in simulation activities.
- Encourage children to appreciate differences.



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Use disabilities as a motivator to find a way and not as a reason to exclude.



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Learning Assessment and Evaluation



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