



Disability Awareness

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Recognized Disabilities



The following are disabilities recognized by the federal government:

- Deaf-Blindness
- Deafness
- Emotional Disturbance
- Behavioral Disorders
- Hearing Impairment
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Multiple Disabilities
- Other Health Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment including Blindness
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Speech or Language Impairments

Partner Talk



- Use the handout *13 Disabilities as Defined by IDEA* to identify and review the various disabilities.
- Share your knowledge with your partner.

Children and Adults with Disabilities



- Have an identified and diagnosed disability that prevents them from learning in traditional ways.
- Sometimes they are given labels such as learning impaired, learning disabled, dyslexic, and communication disordered.
- As of 2018, adults with disabilities make up about 19% of the US population. Approximately 13% of students in schools have educational disabilities.

Famous Adults with Disabilities



- Cher
- Nelson Rockefeller
- Tom Cruise
- Shaquille O'Neal
- General George Patton

For more famous people with disabilities visit:

www.disabled-world.com/disability/awareness/famous

Characteristics of People with Disabilities



- Can be highly intelligent
- Creative
- Often gifted in music, athletics, or drama
- Resilient
- Only require help when the disability prevents them from learning.

Visual Processing Disability



Read page 2-4 of the *Feeling the Difference with a Disability* packet to your partner.

- What would it feel like to read this way everyday?
- How fast could you read?
- What would you feel like at the end of your day at school?

Visual Motor and Processing Disabilities



- Follow the directions on the top of page 5 of *Feeling the Difference with a Disability*. Think about the difficulty in performing this task.
- Using your non-dominant hand trace the maze on page 6 without going out of the lines.

Multiple Disabilities



- Try page 7 of *Feeling the Difference with a Disability*. Follow the directions on the top of the page.
- This simulates a visual perception AND motor problem.

What does it feel like?



- How would it feel to take notes if you had these problems?
- How fast could you write?
- How would you feel at the end of your day at school?

Communication Impairment



- Put your tongue in the roof of your mouth and hold it there.
- Take turns reading aloud the poem on page 8 of *Feeling the Difference with a Disability*.

Communication Impairment



- Who would have the most difficulty with this problem? The speaker or the listener?
- How would you feel if you were trying to communicate everyday with this type of problem?



- As we go around the room, each person will read ONE of the characteristics of Autism found on page 9 of *Feeling the Difference with a Disability*, until all characteristics have been read aloud.
- Do you have experience in working with a student with Autism? Talk to your neighbor about your experience.

The Good News Is.....



- Children and adults can learn the necessary skills for survival in the real world.
- Adults who are disabled can find a job that matches their learning needs.
- Children and adults can advocate for their own needs if they are properly identified and taught self-advocacy skills.



- Many colleges (2 and 4 year) and vocational schools have programs for disabled students.
- Children and adults who have disabilities can have friends and lead NORMAL lives.

Teaching Disability Awareness



Look through the information on *How to Use Literature to Teach Disability Awareness*. Consider teaching disability awareness to your students by....

- Looking through the required literature for your grade level and see if there are stories about persons with disabilities.
- Extend this lesson by bringing in other books from the media-center about this same disability for students to read and discuss

IT'S ALL ABOUT "ATTITUDE"



Discuss "People First" attitude with your students. "People first" recognizes that although people with disabilities may appear different, they are people first and their disability comes second.

<https://www.factmo.org/people-first/>

<https://www.disabilityisnatural.com/>

