

MARCH IS
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITY AWARENESS
MONTH

WHAT IS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH?

National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (D.D.A.M.), observed throughout March, is a nationwide event to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities and address the barriers that those with disabilities face.

Inclusion is necessary since about 15% of the world's population lives with a disability. D.D.A.M. is about understanding the relationship between the way people function and how they participate in society and making sure everybody has the same opportunities in every aspect of life to the best of their abilities. Find out why acceptance is a fundamental element of D.D.A.M. and what you can do to support this initiative.

WHAT IS A DISABILITY?

Disability awareness signifies educating society regarding disability and how we as individuals can bring about the necessary change. Learning acceptance is the fundamental approach to having an understanding of disability awareness, which can take place anywhere such as at home, school, workplace, and health institutes.

WHY IS DISABILITY INCLUSION IMPORTANT?

Disability inclusion means understanding the relationship between the way people function and how they participate in society and making sure everybody has the same opportunities to participate in every aspect of life to the best of their abilities and desires.

WHAT ARE THE FIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

There are five types of developmental disabilities which include

- Autism spectrum disorder (A.S.D.),
- Cerebral palsy (C.P.)
- Intellectual disability (I.D.)
- Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (A.D.H.D.)
and learning disabilities
- Learning Disabilities

WAYS TO SHOW AWAREness!

Wear orange

Orange is a color symbolizing energy and positivity. It's also the official color of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. One of the easiest ways to recognize D.D. Awareness Month is to invite your team to wear orange. So grab your orange attire, and let's celebrate!

WAYS TO SHOW AWARENESS!

Share on social media

Social media is a great way to connect with your community and raise awareness about developmental disabilities. By posting to your social media channels, you will amplify the voices of people with disabilities. Whether it is about inclusion in the workplace, the school, or the community, share it with your followers to spread awareness

FOUR IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

1. **When does it begin?**

Most developmental disabilities begin before a baby is born, but some can happen after birth because of injury, infection, or other factors.

2. **Over one billion**

About 15% of the world's population live with a disability.

3. **The numbers are increasing substantially**

More and more people are living with disabilities due to demographic change including population aging and the global increase in chronic health conditions.

4. **Inadequate healthcare**

Half of the people with disability cannot afford healthcare, compared to a third of people without disabilities.

WHY NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH IS IMPORTANT

It seeks to stop bullying and stereotypes

Bullying of students with special needs has become a serious and growing national problem. Some reports indicate that nearly 85% of students with special needs experience bullying. Stereotypes about people with disabilities contribute to the prevailing high unemployment rate among people with disabilities

WHY NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH IS IMPORTANT

It fosters peer relationships

D.D.A.M. is a time to create strategies and activities that help students better understand the needs and differences of their peers with disabilities. It helps to foster peer relationships and helps students develop empathy that can have positive outcomes for all students.

WHY NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH IS IMPORTANT

It educates the community

It is helpful to educate our community to be aware that developmental disabilities are not always evident. For example, some disabilities are visible — a person who uses a wheelchair or crutches to ambulate. Other disabilities — cognitive challenges that affect the way a person speaks, learns, or interacts with others are not easily recognized or noticeable.

READ ACROSS AMERICA

BITMOJI SLIDE

VARIOUS TOPICS

Books that
make us smile



WORK HARD
AND
BE NICE
TO PEOPLE

Books about
family



Books about
important
women



Books that
give a
different
perspective



Books about
food



**Read
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Thank you, Tutu Teacher for
creating such a diverse
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for ALL children!

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READ ACROSS AMERICA

Day 1: Books that make us smile



Day 2: Books about family



Day 3: Books about important women



Day 4: Books that give a different perspective



Day 5: Books about food



Read across America

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
Celebrating A Nation Of Diverse Readers

Note: Two books from Tutu Teacher's
original list have been substituted for
the purposes of linking them to read
alouds.
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INCLUSION BITMOJI

SLIDE

