



October 1, 2017

Dear Teachers,

October is **National Disability Awareness Month**. In order to help create a more inclusive environment, GC SEPTA would like to share this list of fun and educational activities that you may wish to use in your classrooms to promote disability awareness.

In each of these activities, students will get to partially experience what it is like to live with a few specific disabilities. The students may be broken up into small groups and rotate through different stations completing numerous activities or you may want to just try one or two activities during the course of the month. The choice is yours!

We hope that your students enjoy the activities and hopefully, get the chance to “walk in another’s shoes” even if it’s just for a minute or two.

The Stations are:

- 1) Vision impairment
- 2) Auditory disabilities
- 3) Physical impairment
- 4) Autism / Communication impairment
- 5) Learning disabilities, Dyslexia

Should you have any questions or concerns, email president@gcsepta.org. Also, please share any pictures of your class during these activities, as we would love to highlight them in our newsletter. We are looking forward to a fun and educational month that hopefully, will have a lasting impact on our students.

Sincerely,

Garden City SEPTA’s Executive Board



Disability Awareness Month Classroom Activities

At each station, students will partially experience what it might feel like to have these disabilities and get a sense of what a person with a disability may go through every day.

Different stations include:

1) VISION IMPAIRMENT

- Students are blindfolded and asked to print their first and last name on a line and/or draw a picture of a simple suggested item (*Blind drawing list attached*)
- Have Students write their first name in Braille (*Braille chart attached*)

2) AUDITORY DISABILITIES

- Students asked to lip-read and relay a message (*Show Me chart attached*)
- Students will wear headphones with amplified noise as they try to listen to instructions

3) PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT

- Students will try to sit down or walk while a yardstick is taped down their leg
- Students will attempt to open a container using only one hand
- Students will try to pick up pennies and put them into a cup while wearing socks or gloves on their hands (Fine Motor activity)

4) AUTISM/COMMUNICATION IMPAIRMENT

- For an added sensory component - students in this center should wear a small piece of sandpaper taped to the inside back of their shirt collar
- To appreciate the feeling of being unable to fully communicate, have students communicate a phrase using only actions (*Show Me chart attached*)
- Have students attempt to use a PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System) board to communicate something (*Picture This chart attached*)

5) LEARNING DISABILITY

- Using the attached chart, students will try to read the colors and not the words
- Using the attached (Mixed Up) page, students will try reading it to see what a person with dyslexia might see



Supplies needed:

Attached Handouts (*strips may be cut for students to chose one at random, or teachers can just assign each choice*)

- Paper
- Pencils
- Markers
- Yard Stick (and Masking Tape)
- Blindfold
- Sandpaper
- Container (With twist off cover)
- Pennies
- Socks/ Gloves
- Headphones
- Attached PDF of Handouts & Instructions