



## **Sample Ability Awareness Activities for the Classroom**

Have younger students create an Ability Tree, where they can write out, draw, and display all their talents and abilities. Note whether or not they sometimes need help with those abilities.

Have a dignity jar where students can place points (marbles, popcorn kernels, etc.) earned from using People First and Dignifying language (words) and from demonstrating diversity appreciation (actions) throughout the quarter/semester/school year. Once the jar is filled, the class can have an Ability Awareness or Diversity Appreciation party.

Play a board game with students where everyone communicates their choices using a picture communication board or other augmentative communication device.

Assign this task for homework: Spot and record (take pictures and post on a class chart, etc.) as many accessible places or situations you can in your home as well as in your community. Create a class chart or graph with the results.

Have a spelling bee using the signed alphabet. You can do this in small groups so that students have more opportunities to spell the words.

Using a Venn Diagram or other graphic organizer, compare similarities between characters (from a book, video, pop culture) who do and do not experience a disability. Include assistive technology and other supports that create access for people.

Have reading buddies read Ability Awareness/Diversity books from the library's Ability Awareness collection.

Shoot baskets with bean bags using non-dominant hand only while another student holds the basket and makes sure that the bean bag is caught in the basket. (Accommodations)

Write out an assignment using non-dominant hand, and then write it out on the computer instead (assistive technology).

Write brief instructions to an assignment in Braille letters. Have students decode instructions using the Braille Alphabet.

Have students write letters, enlightening the media of their lack of disability sensitivity or complimenting their sensitivity as far as using People First & Dignifying language.

Name movies, TV shows, or books that are about people who have disabilities. And evaluate the portrayal of the individuals (Helpless or empowered? Cool or pitiful? Normal or abnormal?)

“Disability education, enlightenment, and empowerment for a brighter future”

[www.abilityawareness.com](http://www.abilityawareness.com)

Diana Pastora Carson, M.Ed.



While on a field trip, have a scavenger hunt for barriers to and accommodations for mobility or independence for a person with a mobility disability.

Invite members of the community who experience disability to come in and share with students on curricular topics (science, social studies, math, language arts, etc.).

“Disability education, enlightenment, and empowerment for a brighter future”

[www.abilityawareness.com](http://www.abilityawareness.com)

Diana Pastora Carson, M.Ed.