Disability Awareness:  
a proactive strategy for improving school communities

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Changing Perspectives  
promoting awareness, inspiring empathy
www.cpne.org

Changing Perspectives is a not for profit organization which provide disability awareness programs in schools. We develop curriculum and provide on going educator trainings.

Changing Perspectives engages students in open dialogue and real world experiences in an effort to promote disability awareness and foster inclusive communities.
What Is Disability Awareness?
* Educating ALL students about disabilities
* Disability Awareness is NOT Disability Advocacy
* We are stronger when we talk and learn together
* Provides a chance for all students to discuss and build connections
* Allows for students with differences to share and gain greater self-confidence

Our Programs

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<td>Focus on explicit teaching of disabilities</td>
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**Why Now?**

* Empathy is being noted as one of the most important 21st century skills
* Much intolerance is a result of ignorance
* Our school communities are more diverse now than ever before

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**Case Study #1**

- Classroom Teacher Implementation
- Designated 6 week unit
- Teacher Customization
- Culminating Event

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**Disability Awareness**

The edf advert

http://theinclusionclub.com
Case Study #2

- School Counselor Implemented
- Focus on specific disabilities (differences)
- Culminating event student run for parents

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Case Study #3

* Embed into ELA through a reader’s workshop or guided reading model

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Seamless Integration

* Morning Meeting time (video, picture book)
* Read Aloud
* ELA (Guided reading groups, Writing prompts)
* Closing circle
* Social Studies (i.e. diversity)
* Social-Emotional Learning block
* Links to current programs such as Responsive Classroom, MTSS, Second Step etc
Impact

"I now can put myself in their shoes and I am not uncomfortable anymore and try my best to help and understand people different from me." Student

People often make fun of or exclude people with differences because they are ‘weird.’ I think if they knew more about how it feels to have a difference, the excluding and stuff would stop." Student

"Changing Perspectives opened the door for us to have conversations about challenges students wonder about but feel too awkward to ask." Teacher

* 9 out of 10 students said students in other schools should learn about disabilities.

* 9 out of 10 students said Changing Perspectives helped them learn about disabilities.

Explore Disability Awareness

Engage  Discuss  Experience

Reflect

Reflection

• What surprised you the most?
• How did this better help you to develop a sense of empathy towards other people?
• What are you still wondering about?
Keep In Touch...

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