

March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month



Developmental Disabilities Awareness: It Matters to Me

The Arc of New Jersey is the state's largest organization devoted to advocating for and supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Each year, The Arc of New Jersey hosts a Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month outreach event at The Statehouse in Trenton. The theme of this year's event and design contest is "**Developmental Disabilities Awareness: It Matters to Me**". Students in grades 3 - 12 are invited to design a bulletin board, poster, and/or video that incorporates the theme of this year's campaign and illustrates the students' acceptance of all people.

*Because
awareness,
acceptance,
and inclusion
matter...*

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is a perfect opportunity to educate students about the **spectrum of ability**. For example, some disabilities are visible (a person who uses a wheelchair or crutches to ambulate), while other disabilities may not be easily recognized or seen by the eye (cognitive impairments that affect the way a person speaks, learns, or interacts with others).

Our hope is that you take the theme and truly run with it! Get creative and develop a bulletin board design, poster, or video that is unique to your school and your students' understanding of the belief that *awareness and acceptance of all abilities matters*. Winning submissions will demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of disability and the need for inclusion, support, and acceptance in school and beyond.

Please visit www.DisabilityAwarenessNJ.org for more information.

So, how can my class get involved?

It's easy! Pick your medium:

1. Work with your class to develop a creative, eye-catching and colorful **bulletin board** or **poster** that incorporates the theme of this year's campaign. Once you and your class have finalized your design, snap a photo and e-mail it, along with the completed entry form and photo release, to

DisabilityAwarenessNJ@ArcNJ.org

2. Create a **video** that relates to the contest theme and illustrates why you believe awareness of developmental disabilities matters. E-mail your video, along with the completed entry form and photo release, to

DisabilityAwarenessNJ@ArcNJ.org

3. Join our **awareness campaign**: Print copies of the attached **#ItMattersToMeBecause** **template** and distribute to your class. Ask your students to fill in the blank space with their thoughts on why awareness matters. Students can **snap a selfie** holding the **#ItMattersToMeBecause** sign and tag **@TheArcofNJ** and **@NJSAP** on Facebook and Twitter. Please include the unique campaign hashtag:

#ItMattersToMeBecause

The photos you submit can be any size- *the bigger, the better!*
Please be sure to include a copy of the completed **Official Entry Form** and signed **Photo Release** with your submission.

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Let's talk PRIZES!

Classes who receive 1st place will be awarded a \$100 gift card, classes who receive 2nd place will be awarded a \$50 gift card and classes who receive 3rd place will be awarded a \$25 gift card.

There will be a total of three winning submissions chosen from each category: Elementary level (3rd, 4th, 5th grades), Middle School level (6th, 7th, and 8th grades), and High School (9th – 12th grades). Sorry, but individual submissions will not be considered.

Contest Timeline

All submissions are **due** no later than **February 1, 2017**.

Winning classes will be **notified** by **February 24, 2017**.

Winning submissions will be **on display** at Goldfinch Square in The Statehouse in Trenton from **March 6 - 9, 2017**.

Please visit www.DisabilityAwarenessNJ.org for more information.

Official Entry Form

“Developmental Disabilities Awareness: It Matters to Me” Design Contest

Teacher’s name:

Name of school:

Township:

Grade level: 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please tell us about your submission.

(Feel free to use the back of this page or to attach additional pages.)

- What **inspired** you and your students to create your submission?
- How was the **theme of awareness** incorporated into your design?

*****PLEASE NOTE:** If a student appears in the photograph of your bulletin board design, a **RELEASE FORM** must be included with your submission packet. Separate release forms must be submitted for each *individual* student who appears in the photo.

Please visit www.DisabilityAwarenessNJ.org for more information.

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*“Developmental Disabilities
Awareness: It Matters to Me”*

Photo Release Form

The Arc of New Jersey reserves the right to use the photographs submitted for the purpose of this contest for archival, advertising, promotional, and other such purposes. I understand that by appearing in or submitting photographs, I grant The Arc of New Jersey irrevocable permissions:

1. I give my full permission to use, publish or submit for publication any photograph of me that are submitted for the purposes of participating in the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Design Contest.
2. I give permission for the use of my name and/or photograph(s) or other recording(s).
3. I waive compensation for any use of my name and/or photograph(s) or other recording(s).
4. I release and discharge The Arc of New Jersey and its agents from any and all claims and demands arising out of or in conjunction with the use of photograph(s) or other recording(s) described herein, including, without limitations, any and all claims for libel or invasion of privacy.

Signature below indicates that the participant (or his/her parent or legal guardian) has read all of the above and fully understands the terms and conditions herein.

Participant Name (please print) _____

Signature Date _____

Signature of a parent or legal guardian is required if participant is under 18 or unable to contract his or her name. Please include printed name of participant above.

Name of Parent or Guardian (please print) _____

Signature Date _____

Please visit www.DisabilityAwarenessNJ.org for more information.

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Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

DD Awareness: It Matters to Me

Resources

National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is an opportunity to promote respect for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and to educate students about the spectrum of abilities people with I/DD possess. For example, some disabilities are visible (a person who uses a wheelchair or crutches to ambulate), while other disabilities may not be easily recognized or seen by the eye (cognitive impairments that affect the way a person speaks, learns, or interacts with others).

Use the resources below to aid you in your bulletin board design or video submission.

- The Arc of New Jersey Website on DD Awareness: www.disabilityawarenessnj.org
- New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project: www.njselfadvocacyproject.org
- The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute: www.thearcfamilyinstitute.org
- The Inclusion Campaign: www.inclusioncampaign.org
- The New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education: <http://njcie.org>

