

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Activity: Disability awareness

Learning about disabilities helps children develop empathy and understanding towards people who are different to them and encourages them to appreciate the diversity of the world we live in.

This activity helps children to develop a respectful and informed perspective on disability.

Learning aims

- To increase knowledge, awareness and acceptance of people with disabilities
- Talk about similarities and differences
- Model positive attitudes about the differences between people
- Recognise and accept each other as individuals.



Resources

- Storybook such as *This is me* by George Webster and Tim Budgen or *Every child is different* by Luna James
- Pictures showing a range of visible and hidden disabilities.

Activity outline

- Gather a small group of children and share the story with them
- Discuss the characters in the story, emphasising how each person is unique, talk about similarities and differences, strengths and likes of the different characters
- Explain that some people have disabilities that affect how they move, think, or communicate. If there are children with disabilities in your setting, ensure that discussion about their needs are sensitive and appropriate
- Describe how various equipment, such as wheelchairs, walking frames, hearing aids or walking sticks, prosthetic limbs assist people with disabilities
- Share a selection of pictures depicting different disabilities, including hidden ones and talk about children's own experiences of people with disabilities. Children may have prior knowledge from TV shows such as Mandy Mouse in Peppa Pig who uses a wheelchair, Mr Tumble who uses Makaton or CBeebies presenters Carrie Burnell and George Webster

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- Encourage children's curiosity and respond simply, honestly, and with positive, age-appropriate language.

Extension ideas:

- Find out if there is a member of your community who would come and talk to the children about their disability and how they overcome some challenges (for example, you may be able to invite the owner of a guide dog for the blind)
- Use a diverse range of characters in your small world area and introduce critical thinking when appropriate for example when building a fort you could ask, "What can we change so this person can get in?"

NDNA products to support you with this activity:

- [Championing SEND programme](#)
- Online course: [SEND awareness](#).