

PHYSICAL DISABILITIES: CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

General Statements

1. There are several types and degrees of physical disabilities.
2. Each type of physical disability may bring related problems.
3. Resources and special education are available to aid people with physical disabilities.
4. There are appropriate behaviors, both functional and attitudinal, when relating to people with physical disabilities.

Objectives

- I. To help the student to describe and name several types and degrees of physical disabilities.

A. Discussion Starters

1. What does “physically disabled” mean to you?
2. Do you know anyone who has physical disabilities? How is he/she like you? How is he/she different from you?
3. Is a physical disability always apparent? Is it always a handicap?

B. Activities

1. Research and report on various types and causes of physical disabilities.
2. Study the muscular system and how damage can result in physical disabilities.
3. List several safety rules which could prevent physical disabilities. This would include keeping limbs inside a moving vehicle, proper use of machinery (fans, lawn mowers, bicycles, etc.), preventative medicine (Salk Vaccine), playground equipment.

- II. To enable the student to understand some of the problems that may face people with physical disabilities.

A. Discussion Starters

1. If someone were in a wheelchair, what problems would he/she have in dressing, shopping, cooking and grooming? What problems do you experience?

2. Can you imagine making a telephone call without the use of your hands? How would you do it? How would you feel?
3. What problems could a person with physical disabilities have playing games and sports? What problems do you have?

B. Activities

1. Design and draw a school, classroom, or house which would allow for mobility of a person with physical disabilities.
2. Survey the school and record any architectural barriers to people with physical disabilities.

III. To help the student to be able to recognize and name some resources and aids that are available to people with physical disabilities.

A. Discussion Starters

1. What devices can help a person with physical disabilities to walk? Or write?
2. How do people with physical disabilities manage their own homes? Compare to the way your home is managed.
3. Can people with physical disabilities drive a car?
4. What kinds of employment can a person with physical disabilities find?

B. Activities

1. Discuss the job of a parent. How could a person with physical disabilities perform as a parent?
2. List different aids available to people with physical disabilities.
3. Compare the accessibility of different stores and buildings in your community to people with physical disabilities.

IV. To help the student to state and demonstrate appropriate functional and attitudinal behavior when relating to people with physical disabilities.

A. Discussion Starters

1. What does “physically disabled” mean to you? What are some types of physical disabilities?

2. How do you feel when you see someone in a wheelchair? How do you think they might feel when they see you?
3. Did you ever break an arm or leg? How did you feel when you couldn't play a sport? Did your friends treat you differently?

B. Activities

1. Study the lives of some famous people who were physically disabled. Discuss their struggles and their achievements.

Examples: Magellan
Franklin Delano Roosevelt
Wilma Rudolph
Handel
Toulouse L'autrec

2. Discuss ways in which you could aid a person with physical disabilities in different situations (getting in and out of cars, eating, dressing, playing in a sport, etc.)
3. Discuss the types of things one could accomplish when physically disabled vs. those which one could find difficult to accomplish. Compare the two lists.

* Taken from, *Handicapped People in Society: A Curriculum Guide*, by Ruth-Ellen Ross and I. Robert Freeland and Easter Seal Society of Oregon, *People with Disabilities*

