

WHEELCHAIRS

Objective

The purpose of this activity is to have the students become aware of “wheelchair rules”, demonstrate awareness of communication courtesies and to experience riding in a wheelchair, pushing a wheelchair and maneuvering around obstacles.

Materials

- 4 to 6 wheelchairs
- 6 traffic cones or chairs set up to make an obstacle course
- Wheelchair Rules (included, next page to post for students)

Activity

1. Explain to the children that they will experience what it would be like to use a wheelchair to get around and will learn the rules for riding in or pushing someone in a wheelchair.
2. Demonstrate as you review “wheelchair rules” for pushing someone.
3. Demonstrate as you review “wheelchair rules” for maneuvering a wheelchair.
4. Have students go through obstacle course by themselves and then have their partners push them back. Have them trade places. If there is a door available, have them attempt to open the door, without help, while sitting in the wheelchair.

Discussion

How did it feel to use a wheelchair? Would you like to use a wheelchair for the rest of your life? Would you still be able to play? If _____(pick a student) had an accident and came to school in a wheelchair tomorrow, would he/she still be the same person? Would you still want to be his/her friend? Will you act differently towards the next disabled person you meet? If so, what will you do differently?

* Adapted from A.I.M., San Francisco State University, Project REACH

WHEELCHAIR RULES

(when pushing someone)

1. Lock the brakes when you stop.
2. Always park the person sitting in the wheelchair facing his/her friends.
3. Ask the person in the wheelchair where he/she would like to go or tell him/her where you are taking them.
4. Talk to the person while you are pushing the wheelchair.
5. Walk at a normal pace, not too fast.

WHEELCHAIR RULES

(when riding in a wheelchair)

1. Unlock brake before moving.
2. Hands on metal rings, not on the rubber tires.
3. Push both wheels together to go straight.
4. Hold one wheel stationary and push with the other to turn.
5. Lock your brakes when coming to a stop or getting out.