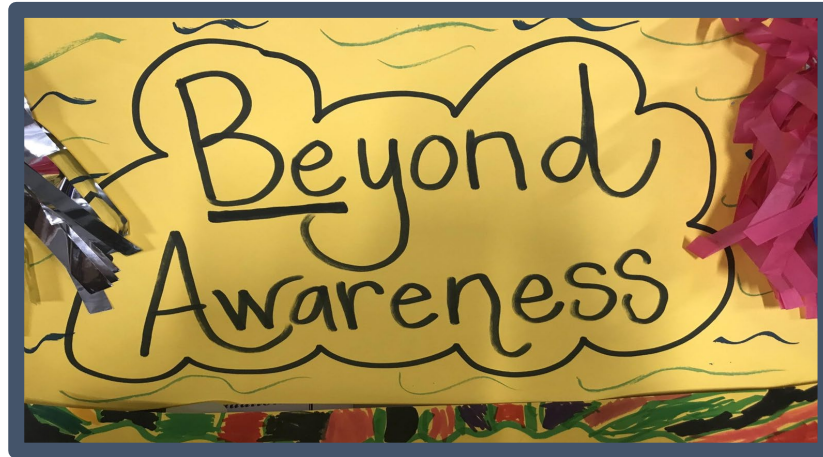


Beyond Awareness



Beyond awareness poster by Diana Pastora Carson. CC0 1.0

Created by Diana Pastora Carson, M.Ed.
as part of the *Leaders for Inclusion Project* at the
University of San Diego and generously funded by the
Johnson Family Foundation



Disability Studies in Education Tenets

To engage in research, policy, and action that

- contextualize disability within political and social
- privilege the interest, agendas, and voices of people labeled with disability/disabled people
- promote social justice, equitable and inclusive educational opportunities, and full and meaningful access to all aspects of society for people labeled with disability/disabled people
- assume competence and reject deficit models of disability



Disability Awareness: What is our purpose?



[Self library education inside](#) by Franck Barske. CC0

What needs to change?

People with disabilities?

Or Society?



[Disabled and Here](#) by Chona Kasinger. CC0



Large group of people by DMCA. CC0



“Be the change
you wish to see
in the world.”

How can we be the change in terms of
disability sensitivity?



When we begin to understand
our role in disabling others,
we can begin to empower us all.

Diana Pastora Carson

Five Fundamentals



[Hands of different color](#) by openclipart. CC0 1.0

- Ableism
- Accessibility
- Assistive Technology
- Disability Rights/Disability Civil Rights History
- Respectful Language



-isms

What are some -isms you know of?

What do they mean?

What do they do?



Have you heard of Ableism?

The practices and dominant attitudes in society that devalue and limit the potential of persons with disabilities

A set of practices and beliefs that assign inferior value (worth) to people who have developmental, emotional, physical or psychiatric disabilities

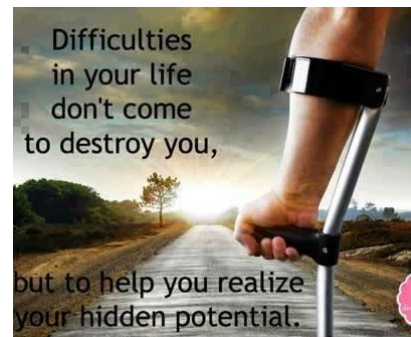
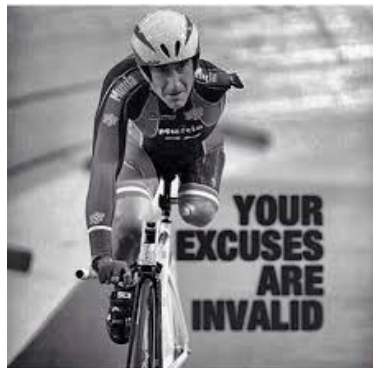
-ableism.org



Ableism

- Ableism = Discrimination
- Ableist attitudes & assumptions are “disabling.”
- “Ableism is systematic, institutional devaluing of bodies and minds deemed deviant, abnormal, defective, subhuman, less than. Ableism is violence.” - *Autistic Hoya*
- We often unknowingly demonstrate ableism by our words and actions.

Inspiration Porn Examples



@DianaPastoraCarson



Access

- Accessibility to buildings, events, educational opportunities, relationships, communication, etc.
- If a person has ACCESS, they are less DISabled.
- ACCESS is a function of one's community and surroundings, not one's condition.
- Accessibility requires an understanding of what **barriers** to inclusion and life quality are, and a commitment to removing barriers
- Inaccessible environments and events are the result of ableist ways of thinking.



Assistive Technology

- Any high or low tech device or assistance that helps a person to be more independent.
- An important factor in one having ACCESS to many things that nondisabled people have access to.
- Some Examples: Vibrating alarm clock, rotating spatula, service animals, cross-walks with audio signals, sensory tools, iPad, speech/language programs, open-captioning, eye gaze technology, supported typing, any technology that supports communication, etc.



Assistive Technology (cont.)

- Lack of needed assistive technology is the result of ableist thinking that limits access to opportunities and environments that nondisabled people do have access to.



Disability History

Disability Civil Rights History

- Serves as an education to our youth (and adults) that Disability History is CIVIL RIGHTS history.
- Teaches that ACCESS to life and inclusion in life is a CIVIL RIGHTS issue, not just a nice thing to do.
- Shares the lives of important pioneers who made community access a reality for many people.
- Gives youth a deeper understanding of discrimination and ableism.



Respectful Language

- Teaches youth about the stigma perpetuated by verbally associating disability-related conditions with negativity, put-downs, and low expectations.
- Teaches students to honor each person's chosen way to identify themselves, either in Person-First language, or in Identity-First/ Disability Pride language.
- Reminds youth that we are all important and special, and that words do matter.



Beyond Awareness Essentials

- The Five Fundamentals
- Beyond Awareness Library Collection

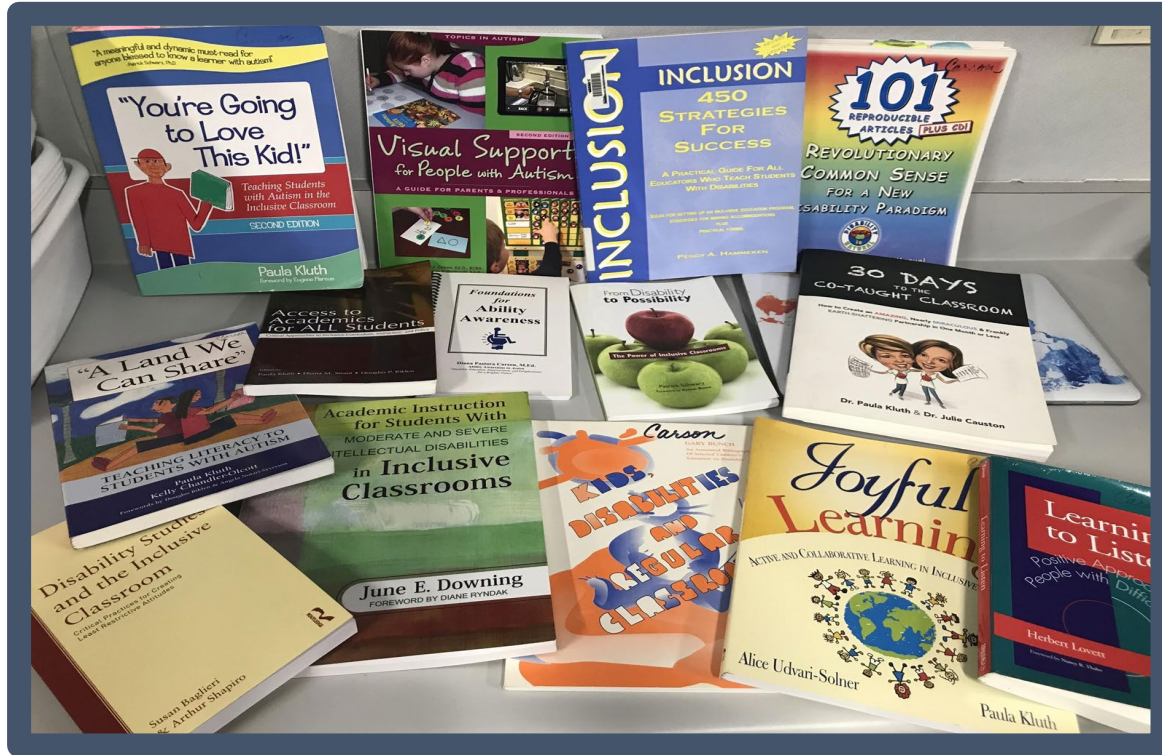


Children's book on the table by Diana Pastora Carson. CC0 1.0

Funding Ideas \$\$\$

Books & media that facilitate dignifying images of people with disabilities & embrace diversity

Inclusion & Disability-Related Resources



Teacher books by Diana Pastora Carson. CC0 1.0



Out with the Old...

- Simulation activities as the sole means of “educating” students
- “Experts” telling us about “disabilities”
- “Disability” is viewed as a physical, mental, or developmental condition that needs to be fixed
- Activities and speakers that elicit pity or misguided inspiration



In with the New...

- Inclusion (or at least modeling an inclusive mindset) as a foundation
- Diversity appreciation as a foundation
- Experts/Speakers are people who experience disability
- “Disability” is viewed from the Social Model
- Speaking topics revolve around the five fundamental areas

Going Beyond Awareness

Annually

Host Beyond Awareness Celebrations



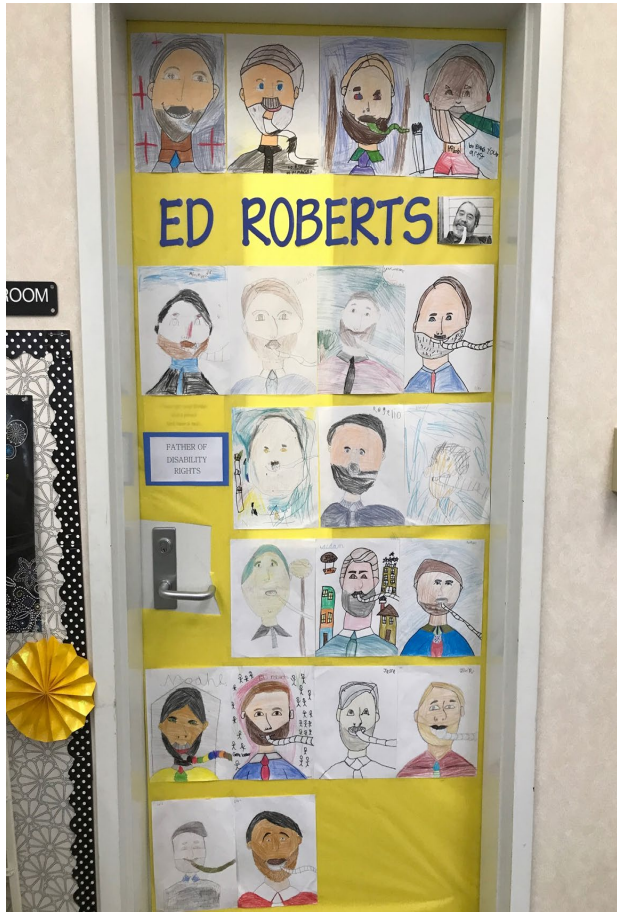
[Streamers Decoration Confetti Party Celebration](#) by Max Pixel. CC0

Throughout the Year
Embed Tenets of DSE & Five Fundamentals of Beyond Awareness in classroom curriculum & environments and in extracurricular activities.



Ideas for Throughout the Year...

- Inclusive Education!
- Beyond Awareness
- Library Collection
- Announcements
- Clubs
- Chorus
- Drama
- T-Shirts
- Guest Speakers & Assemblies
- Battle of the Bands
- Debate Forums
- Writing Campaigns
- Book Clubs
- Media Productions
- Contests
(Art/Speech/Writing)
- Curricular Projects



Ed Roberts classroom door by Diana Pastora Carson. CC0 1.0



Book Reading time by Diana Pastora Carson. CC0 1.0



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our role in disabling others, we
can begin to empower us all.

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