

March

BE ENCOURAGING

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan made a public proclamation that the month of March should be recognized as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. In his speech, he said, "I urge all Americans to join me in according to our fellow citizens with such disabilities both *encouragement* and the opportunities they need to lead *productive lives* and to achieve their full potential". In celebration of this month's theme, below are 6 simple strategies that encourage us to respond positively to differences.



1 See me **for me**

- Remember that I am more than just my disability
- Know that it's ok to ask me about myself



2 See my **potential**

Ask me, "Do you want to help me?"

Encouragement Example:
"You did it! You put the group's supplies on the back shelf so other students could find them easily. That was helpful. Way to go."



3 See me as **your classmate**

- Encourage me to try my best
- Save me a seat by you



5 See me as **your neighbor**

Notice me by greeting, "Hi. How are you?" and wave when you see me.

Ask me, "Do you want to come out and join us?"



4 See me as **your co-worker**

- Let me ask you questions
- Remember we are both on the same team



6 See me as **your friend**

- Ask me about my interests
- Talk to me the same way you would any other friend



Morgan Walker, graduate of Lamar HS, at his job building a window treatment

Six Simple Strategies

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