

ABILITY AWARENESS:

Sample Main Points by Age

> 3-5 Year Olds

We are all different; celebrate differences.

We are more similar than different; focus on similarities.

You cannot catch Down syndrome from anyone.

If you are born with it, you'll always have it.

Down syndrome is not a bad thing.

> 5-10 Year Olds

Prior age points plus:

Introduce specific terminology: Down syndrome, disabilities, etc.

There are more ways to communicate besides using typical verbal speech.

Promote concrete ways to be helpful and sensitive towards schoolmates with disabilities. "being a friend; using respectful words; helping but only when help is needed, etc."

> 10-14 Year Olds

Prior age points plus:

Low muscle tone is significant. It affects speech, fine motor, stamina, etc.

Down syndrome is the result of an extra chromosome.

> 14-18 Year Olds

Prior age points expanded + additional science if desired.

