



The Arc of Island & Skagit
1500 E. College Way, Ste A, PMB 374
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

T 304 584-3272
www.arcislandskagit.org
arcofislandskagit@gmail.com

Achieve with us.

September 17, 2011

Dear Superintendent, Principals & Teachers,

According to Senate Bill 6313, signed by Governor Christine Gregoire on March 26, 2008, October is Disability Awareness Month! *Sec. 3 states, "Annually, during the month of October, each public school shall conduct or promote educational activities that provide instruction, awareness, and understanding of disability history and people with disabilities. The activities may include, but not be limited to, school assemblies or guest speaker presentations."*

Generally, typically developing children [without disabilities] don't understand the differences they find in children with disabilities; this can lead to avoidance, intolerance, and even bullying. Helping children walk in their friends' shoes who have disabilities can lead to a more caring and enriched school environment. Children develop healthy attitudes about disabilities by watching and learning from their peers, teachers and families. Our classrooms are the perfect place to start!

We know that you want to teach these principles to your students; however, there are often not enough tools and resources to comply with these mandates. With this in mind, our Disability Resource Team was able to solicit donations from private sponsors in order to provide your School District with the accompanying Resource Box. It contains a variety of captivating contemporary books and movies to help educate your students about disabilities. *Please encourage your staff and teachers to use the resources provided to fulfill the above stated mandate and increase disability awareness in our schools and communities. Note - this is an excellent tool for substitute teachers who may need a resource for their classroom(s) as well.*

Conditions & Topics Covered:

ADD & ADHD

Autism

Cerebral Palsy

Developmental Disabilities

Down syndrome

Dyslexia

Hearing & Vision

Medical Challenges

Physical & Learning Disabilities

Tourette's Syndrome & OCD

Equality

Families

Friendship

Community Inclusion

Social & Recreational

TEACHERS: HOW TO USE THIS BOX:

1. Look through the box & or lists provided to identify the resource to be checked out.
2. Sign out the resource.
3. Return the item to the box and initial its return.

SCHOOL COORDINATOR (COUNSELOR/LIBRARIAN/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT): HOW TO USE THIS BOX:

1. Please place the box in a location - easily seen and accessed by Classroom Teachers, ie: break room.
2. Send out a memo &/or put up a notice, notifying teachers that it is available for their use.
3. Prior to sending to the next school, please double-check the inventory to ensure that all materials checked out have been returned.
4. Please send the box to the next school on the list by the date indicated.

It is our honor to partner with you for the benefit of all our students. Thank you for allowing us to help you spread the word about the value of all people - regardless of ability.

Sincerely,

Joy Caldwell
Executive Director

*Registered Charity with State of Washington. IRS 501(c)3 - Non-profit Status "pending" as of the printed date on this letter.