

National AccessAbility Week (NAAW)

This annual event is an opportunity for Canadians to come together to celebrate the valuable contributions and leadership of Canadians with disabilities, highlight the work of individuals, organizations and communities who are removing barriers, and reflect on our ongoing efforts to become a better, more accessible, more disability inclusive Canada. Every year National AccessAbility Week begins on the last Sunday in May.

By participating in National AccessAbility Week, you will be helping to:

- Improve the understanding and knowledge of Canadians about accessibility and inclusion.
- Reduce stigma and attitudinal barriers towards persons with disabilities.
- Share best practices and lessons learned related to NAAW activities within the disability community.
- Be seen as a supportive voice and advocate for Canadians with disabilities.

Suggested Classroom Activities:

- Provide the colouring sheets, comic strips, or other learning resources available on RedShirtDay.org to your students. These resources are a great way to open up a discussion about disabilities and inclusion.
- Have your students sign their names to the Red Shirt Day™ cut-outs and post them to the walls of your classroom to create a visible display of support for and solidarity with students with disabilities.
- Present our Accessibility and Inclusion in Schools Informative Video within your classroom or at a school assembly.
- Invite students to create posters containing positive messages of support for people and families of those living with disabilities to post on the walls of your classroom, or allow the students to bring the posters home to show their family and display on their windows at home.
- Read books or view movies and video clips that feature characters with disabilities or touch on disability, accessibility and inclusion. Following the activity, facilitate a discussion about what you have read or watched, and welcome students to share their key takeaways related to disability, accessibility and inclusion.
- Organize students into groups and direct them to consider the physical and attitudinal barriers that may exist within their classroom and school. Then work together to identify solutions to remove the identified barriers in order to make the classroom and school more





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accessible and inclusive. Consider inviting a speaker from a local organization serving people with disabilities to address students in your class/school. You might also consider inviting students at your school, who are living with a disability, to share their experiences in your classroom or at a school assembly.

- Encourage students and teachers at your school to wear red on Red Shirt Day™ (always on the Wednesday of National AccessAbility Week) and post your individual or group photos on social media with the hashtags #RedShirtDay and #RedForAccessAbility, and tag @EasterSealsON. In your post, share the reason why your school has chosen to observe National AccessAbility Week and participate in Red Shirt Day™ and what you pledge to do in the year ahead to enhance accessibility and inclusion in your classroom, school or community.
- Teachers or students can organize activities to raise funds/donations for Easter Seals Ontario or other local organizations that provide services in support of people and families of those with disabilities.
- Have students and staff at your school reflect on the achievements and changes made within your own school community to improve accessibility and inclusion. Encourage them to share their stories, experiences, and ideas with others through social media or other channels. This can help inspire others to take action and create a more inclusive environment for people of all abilities.

Thank you for your support in creating a more inclusive and accessible world!