

Sample Teacher Grant Application

Project Title: Ability Awareness

Project Category: Social Skills; Other

Amount Requested: \$500

Description of Material: -Ability Awareness books and materials (including activities and snacks for social events for students and their buddies) needed for school-wide Ability Awareness Campaign. At the Ability Awareness Fair, various Speakers will present (e.g., parent of a child with autism, a high school student with autism, an adult with autism, etc.). Materials / books will be used during school-wide training. Goals: educate general education peers on how to relate/ work with students with autism and other disabilities as part of the school's SOAR (Sharing Our Acceptance and Respect) peer buddy program.

Description Intent: To promote an empathetic and accepting learning environment for all students. To teach students that we all have strengths and weaknesses, have differences and similarities, and that every student deserves respect and acceptance. Acceptance and inclusion of students with autism and other disabilities is crucial in the development of peer relationships and an environment that promotes learning.

Objective Measure: 1. Students' positive responses to an Attitude Survey will increase by at least 20% (e.g., 9 of 15 'yes' answers to 12 of 15 'yes' answers).; ; 2. Teachers and parents of students with autism will narratively report that: 1) students are interacting with more peers and 2) they are observing less bullying/put downs/negative interactions. (I understand that this is not very quantitative or measurable but I would like to get parent and teacher perspectives).

Objective: 1) A pre and post Attitude Survey (Friends Who Care, Easter Seals) will be given to students in grades 3-6 before and after ability awareness week and responses will be compiled and used as a sample of the school population.; ; 2. Parents and Teachers Surveys of students with autism and record their responses to several questions (e.g., 1) number of play dates per month [parent]; number of peers with whom student interacts in the classroom [teacher] 2) perception of bullying/negative interactions [what they notice during their observations of interactions]).

Reach Count: 8

Reach Environment: Classroom; Resource Room; SLP; Playground; Other

Description of Impact: This proposal should be funded because it will reach our entire school population (approximately 700 students) and promote a positive learning environment for students in grades Kindergarten through 6th grade. This is our first year to have an ability awareness week, and it will set the tone for creating a school community focused on identifying strengths and acceptance. We have several students at our school who are identified with

autism and are included in the general education setting for the majority of the day. Last year parents of students with autism had reached out to us regarding ability awareness. We would like to collaborate with the parents to create inclusive environments for their children with ASD and other disabilities. ; ; Approximately 36% of the student population is latino and 57% are white. 20% of the total school population receive free and reduced lunch. We are the site of a dual language program promoting bilingualism, with the ultimate goal of celebrating diversity and creating a community of students who connects and contributes globally. I believe this school goal is aligned with the intent of promoting ability awareness: for students to connect with peers with differing needs and contribute to creating global leaders who promote acceptance.