

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 in our Resources section to your children/students to encourage them to colour-in. The colouring sheets are also a great way to open up a discussion about disabilities and inclusion. EasterSeals.ca/redshirtday-resources/
- Have your students create posters containing positive messages of support for people and families living with disabilities, and put them up on the walls of your class, or allow the students to bring the posters home to show their family and put up on the windows at home.
- Read books or watch movies and video clips that feature characters with disabilities or that touches on disability, accessibility and inclusion. Then have a discussion about what you have read or watched, and the message and lessons that the students took away from the books/movies/videos. For suggestions of children's books with themes related to disability, accessibility and inclusion, visit: EasterSeals.ca/redshirtday-resources/
- Organize the students into groups and have them think about physical and attitudinal barriers that may exist in the classroom and school, and work together to identify ways to remove those barriers in order to make the classroom and school more accessible and inclusive of people of all abilities.





- 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 disability, to share their experiences in your classroom or at the school assembly.
- Encourage students and teachers at your school to wear red on Red Shirt Day™ (Wednesday, May 31) 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 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.

Find additional resources, such as colouring sheets, TED Talks about disability, accessibility and inclusion, podcasts, fundraising forms, and more at: EasterSeals.ca/redshirtday

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