

Autism Awareness Lesson

Grades 3-6

Objective:

To raise awareness of positive character traits in everyone and learn what the term “autism ambassador” means.

Vocabulary:

Ambassador

Autism awareness

Intro:

Tell students, “April is Autism Awareness Month.” Read a story about autism (Visit www.autismnjambassador.org/booklist-kids for a suggested list of books). After reading the story, explain: “Today we will learn what it means to be an ‘ambassador’ for children with autism.”

Procedure:

1. Ask students to look up the word “ambassador.”
2. Brainstorm as a group, words that describe ambassadors and list words.

Examples:

Patient

Leader

Kind

Friendly

Understanding

3. Break students into small groups and assign each group one of the brainstormed words. Groups will use the assigned word to think of ideas about how an ambassador with that trait would help spread autism awareness.

Example:

Patient: I am the ambassador of patience.

Some ideas to spread autism awareness in April would be helping people be more patient by:

- Posting facts about autism where students wait in line in the cafeteria
- Ask to help a student with autism wait in line and get their lunch
- Teach friends and family about autism and the importance of patience and understanding

4. Copy or download (www.autismnjambassador.org) Autism New Jersey's ambassador certificate and add a photo of the student. Post the certificate in the classroom or hallway for Autism Awareness Month.
5. Assist each student with completing the activity they chose to add to their certificate.