

# Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

## DD Awareness: It Matters to Me

## How to Raise Awareness

- **Displays:**

- **Library or Bookstore:**

Throughout the year, libraries and bookstores set up displays honoring and celebrating a variety of topics. Contact the manager and ask if they would be interested in setting up a display to honor Developmental Disability Awareness Month.

- **School:**

Contact your child's school and ask if you can create a bulletin board in a hallway or classroom. Don't forget to use bright colors and lots of pictures to make it pop!

- **Local Municipal Building:**

Municipal buildings are great places to create a display table or bulletin board. Even just hanging one poster can make a big impact in building community awareness, and who knows maybe your mayor or freeholder will see it and ask for more information.



- **Write A Letter:**

Community leaders such as local legislators, clergy people and business owners are important members of the community. The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute ([www.thearcfamilyinstitute.org](http://www.thearcfamilyinstitute.org)) developed a Developmental Disabilities Awareness Family Ambassador Kit which includes several awareness letters that you can download and personalize to send to your community leaders.

- **Social Media:**

Posting positive messages about what your loved one with a developmental disability (DD) is up to can help eliminate negative stigmas associated with the disability community. Don't forget when tweeting to include popular Hashtags such as #SpecialNeeds, #DDAwareness, or #Inclusion.

- **Speakers:**

Reach out to local developmental disabilities organizations (such as The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute) and inquire about booking a speaker. Building awareness among the people you and your loved one meet can build stronger community ties. Ask your place of worship, workplace or other affiliated organization if they would be interested in hosting a speaker. *Don't forget about schools.* There are many organizations in New Jersey that offer children-friendly presentations to help educate students about disabilities in a fun and respectful manner.

**For more information, or to download electronic copies of items discussed above, as well as samples of media materials, please visit [www.disabilityawarenessnj.org](http://www.disabilityawarenessnj.org)**