

Disability Awareness Program Ideas

Just about everyone you meet probably has a special need such as shyness, loneliness, spelling difficulties, a chronic sports injury, short sightedness or a weight problem. It is therefore important that time is made within the Guide program to increase awareness of disability and special needs.

Awareness games

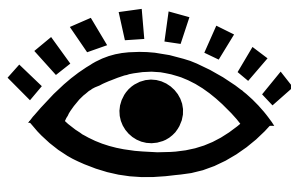
For safety reasons have a mixture of pretend disabilities as well as supervision by 2 or 3 adults.

Sight impaired

A complete lack of sight is uncommon. Most registered blind people are able to see some light or vague shapes and have some sight in part of one or both eyes. Encourage the guides to use the term *sight impaired* rather than *blind*.

To simulate sight impairment: cover one or both eyes or buy some cheap work goggles and scratch the surface or make a mask with pin holes to see through.

Activities: play your favourite ball games, try feeding each other, write your name and address, pick up object with your feet, complete a simple jigsaw, give directions to do an activity or collect objects scattered around the hall to someone blindfolded.



Hearing impaired

Again like sight impaired this is the preferred term. There are many levels of hearing impairment and it can be hard to simulate some of them.

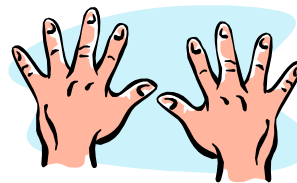
Activities: Try playing games wearing walkmans, or wear large headphones or tie a woolly scarf around your head and put a beanie on over the top.

How about an entire meeting conducted in silence! Invite someone to come and teach Auslan or Makaton.

One or no hands

Tuck one or both into your belt or wear gardening gloves inside woolly mittens.

Activities: thread needle & sew on button, feed another person, play ball games, peel an orange/potato, wash-up, tie knots, write your name, complete a simple jigsaw. Several of these can be done with your feet particularly writing and tying Knots.



No legs/ one good leg

Tie legs together with scarves or triangular bandages or try to borrow a wheelchair – your local hospital, St Johns or Red Cross may be able to help.

Activities: any active game

