

“Wheels In Motion”

A workshop designed to reduce attitudinal barriers experienced by individuals who use a wheelchair

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Our IDeA

Our IDeA is to implement an awareness workshop that provides grade 3 students with a first-hand experience of using a wheelchair for mobility

The purpose of *Wheels in Motion* is to enable students to consider:

- 1) the implications of negative language and attitudes towards individuals who use a wheelchair
- 2) structural and attitudinal challenges to accessibility
- 3) their role in contributing to an inclusive society for all Canadians

Workshop Details

We have designed four user-friendly stations. Each station will run for approximately 25 minutes

STATION #1: Promoting Person-First Language

STATION #2: Wheelchair Simulation

STATION #3: Accessibility Audit

STATION #4: Brainstorming Solutions

DEBRIEF: Opportunity for large-group discussion of student learnings and review of the overall workshop



"Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future."

John F. Kennedy



Rationale for Our IDeA

- We believe implementing our IDeA into the elementary school system will promote positive attitudinal changes that will have a life-long impact
- We believe children should be exposed to a wide variety of real experiences to help them synthesize new learnings
- Grade 3 is recognized as an appropriate time to implement the program as students have developed a level of maturity that will allow them to comprehend the material to be covered (Huitt & Hummel, 2003)

Intended Outcomes of Our Workshop

- Students will have a more accepting and open attitude towards people they consider to be different from themselves
- Students will have the opportunity to have their questions answered about people who use wheelchairs in a non-judgemental space
- Students will work to make their community a more welcoming and accessible environment as a result of their increased awareness of attitudinal and structural barriers within society