



- **What's happening?** Great Contest! Great Prizes!
- **When?** Now! In preparation for March 2011 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
- **Where?** All Delaware County Middle Schools
- **Why?** Gain awareness about people with Developmental Disabilities
- **Who?** The Arc of Delaware County and Beta Omicron Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma
- **How?** Great way to meet NYS Learning Standards

## DETAILS

1) **The Arc of Delaware County (Delarc)**, an organization that supports people with disabilities, and **Delta Kappa Gamma**, an organization of women educators, are sponsoring a county wide contest for middle school students (grades 5-8) to celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March. The purpose is to educate students and their communities about people with developmental disabilities. The hope is that through participation in the contest, students will learn about the potential of citizens with disabilities, the resources our county has in Delarc, and the character values of compassion and caring.

2) The premise: **How could you demonstrate respecting and including people with disabilities in your school or community?**

3) The contest will be open to **all middle school students and classes**. Each school will choose its top 3 semi-finalists to receive 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes of \$150, \$75 and \$25 respectively, and their names will be placed on a trophy or plaque to be kept on display at the school. The top 3 semi-finalists' entries will be sent to Delarc (34570 State Hwy 10, Suite 1, Walton, NY 13856) to compete county wide for a grand prize of \$500 or a Laptop Computer. Additionally, the school of the Grand Prize winner, along with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place county winners, will receive scholarships of \$300, \$200, and \$100 respectively toward a class trip to Delarc to participate in the Share, Learn, Grow Mentorship Program (to help cover expenses such as transportation and lunch). A video of this inspiring day at Delarc is included in this packet.

4) Each school will choose its own top 3 winning entries to send on to the county level. Using our scoring rubric, the participating teachers could judge all entries together or decide to pick the top three winners in some other

manner (for example using the guidance counselor or principal). The **scoring rubric** included in this paperwork on a separate page is easy to use.

5) All entries sent to the county wide contest will be displayed and winners will be recognized in the press. The **timeline**: school winners' entries are due at Delarc by **March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. All entries submitted become the property of Delarc.

6) **Entries** may be of any variety and may be individual, small group, or class. Here are some ideas for possible entries:

- Essay
- Video
- Brochure
- Role playing scenario
- Write a bio on a celebrity or famous person who has a disability
- Make a "pass it forward" card
- Make a children's book
- Painting
- Puppet/puppet show
- Plan /carry out an event (assembly, etc)
- Interview (person w/disability, person who works with people with disabilities)
- Make up a game
- News story
- Poster
- Write a skit
- Write a song
- Make up a dance
- Tell a story
- Book report
- Do a picture book
- Invent an object to help people with disabilities
- ETC!

7) **Resource ideas** for you to use to prepare your class for the contest:

- Check out Delarc website/Facebook/videos ([www.delarc.org](http://www.delarc.org))
- Read books/articles about people with disabilities (see list below)
- *Do Same & Different: Respect for ALL* Activity (Attached)
- Share personal stories
- Interview a family/community member
- Have class meet with a volunteer from Delarc (contact Catherine Tweedie for more info about class visitors and to arrange)
- Penpals/email buddies from Delarc (contact Catherine)
- Review *A Few Words About People First Language* (Attached)
- Packet: **Resources You Can Use/Disability Awareness** from the National Information Center for children and Youth with Disabilities ([www.nichcy.org](http://www.nichcy.org))

8) Additional Books/articles/resources about children with disabilities:

- Petey by Ben Mikaelson (Suggested by Cathy Rapplevea whose 6<sup>th</sup> grade class visited Delarc), Hooway for Wodney Wat by Helen Lester, A Very Special Critter by Gina and Mercer Mayer, I Have a Sister-My Sister is Deaf by Jeanne Peterson, Mama Zooms by Jane Cowen-Fletcher, and Our Friend Mikayla by Mikayla's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class.
- [www.best-childrens-books.com/childrens-books-about-handicaps](http://www.best-childrens-books.com/childrens-books-about-handicaps)
- [www.summitmedicalgroup.com/library/behavioral\\_health/ppment/](http://www.summitmedicalgroup.com/library/behavioral_health/ppment/) (listed by age level)
- [www.thedacare.org/crs/pa/pa\\_blretard\\_pep.htm](http://www.thedacare.org/crs/pa/pa_blretard_pep.htm) (by age-includes other resources)
- <http://phpf-fountain.org/FSOpicturebooks.htm> (picture books)
- Don Wycoff at the Center for Independence (432-8000)

9) For questions/additional information, contact Catherine Tweedie at Delarc, (607) 865-7126 (Catherine@delarc.org) or Pam Thompson at Delta Kappa Gamma, (607) 746-3497 (pandg1@live.com).