

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month



art-enables.org

**CALVIN "SONNY"
CLARKE**

Sonny's artwork was chosen by the NACDD to serve as the logo for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month 2022.

Sonny is an artist with Art Enables and loves working with a variety of materials. His artwork is often playful, using a unique mix of design and colors.

ART ENABLES

Art Enables is an art gallery creating opportunities for artists with disabilities to make, market and earn income from their original artwork.

The Library of Congress has recently acquired a collection of Covid-19 themed artwork through Art Enables.

Shop for a variety of original art at: <https://art-enables.org/shop>

What is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month?

National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is observed in March in the US.

President Ronald Regan declared the month March for National Developmental Disabilities Awareness in 1987.

Developmental Disabilities encompass a broad range of conditions that includes intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorder, learning disorders and hearing and visual impairments.

Each year the **National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NCADD)** and their partners create a social media campaign to highlight various ways individuals with disabilities and their supporters come together to create strong, diverse communities.

1

DID YOU KNOW?

Developmental Disabilities includes emotional, physical, behavioral and cognitive differences.

2

REMEMBER

Not all disabilities can be seen. Always be respectful and open to people and their differences.

3

TODAY

1 in 6 children in the US between 2-17 years old (about 15%), have one or more developmental disability.

People to Know

Many inspiring people refused to be limited by their disabilities. Here are just a few people you may have heard of who pursued and achieved their dreams.

Millie Bobby Brown- The actress best known for her role in *Stranger Things* was born with partial hearing in one ear, and gradually lost all hearing in that ear over several years.

Muhammed Ali- Ali was diagnosed with dyslexia as a child and at times struggled with school. He went on to become one of the greatest heavyweight boxers of all time and is widely celebrated as one of the most significant sports figures in the 20th century.

Adam Levine- The lead singer of Maroon 5, Adam Levine was diagnosed with ADHD as a teenager. Adam didn't outgrow his ADHD as an adult; more than 1/3 of kids diagnosed won't.

Andrea Bocelli- Italian musician Andrea Bocelli was born with congenital glaucoma and was partially blind. At age 12, he suffered an injury that left him completely blind. He has won numerous awards and recognitions including making *People* magazine's 50 most beautiful people in 1998.

Shaquem Griffen- Born with amniotic band syndrome, Shaquem had his hand amputated at age 4. He became the first ever one handed player in the NFL in 2018 when he was signed by the Seattle Seahawks.

INCLUDING PEOPLE WITH ALL ABILITIES

1. Use Person First Language, people aren't defined by their disabilities. For example, instead of saying someone is "epileptic" it is preferable to say "a person with epilepsy"
2. Make helpful but gentle corrections. Start conversations with your child with "I'd like to talk about what you just said.."
3. Diversify your everyday experiences. An easy place to start is to incorporate books with diverse and underrepresented groups. Seek out inclusive playgrounds and activities.
4. Lead by example. Embrace similarities and differences in your life. Remember, children can connect in many ways; they both may like superheroes, pizza or playing outside.

Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games



The Paralympic Games are a multi-sport event involving athletes with a range of physical disabilities. Since the 1988 Summer Olympics, the Paralympic Games have been held almost immediately following the Summer and Winter Olympic Games. The motto for the Paralympic Games is "Spirit in Motion" and the symbol is made up of three "agitos" which means "I move" in Latin and are in the colors, red, blue and green.

DIG DEEPER



Read: Books for National Disabilities Awareness Month



Visit: Rochester Challenger Miracle Field and Karpus Family Playground in Webster



Watch: Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games



Get Involved: Learn about upcoming events and ways to support and get involved with the Genesee Area Special Olympics

