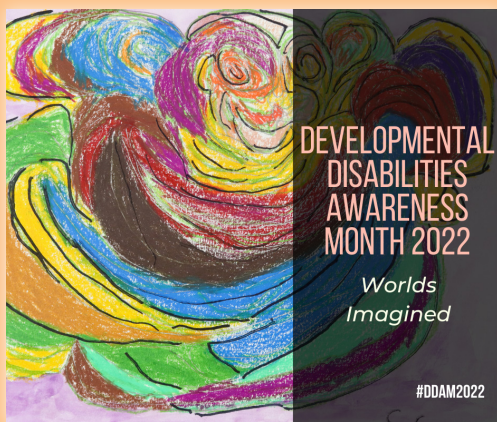


# March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month



“The first National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month was observed in 1987, following decades of advocacy and efforts to raise awareness about developmental disabilities. The event was officially created by Congress when it passed Public Law 99 – 483, which designated the month of March as “National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month” and authorized President Ronald Reagan to issue a proclamation in observance of this event. When President Ronald Reagan signed the Presidential proclamation declaring March “National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month”, he wrote: “I urge all Americans to join me in according to our fellow citizens with such disabilities both encouragement and the opportunities they need to lead productive lives and to achieve their full potential.” This was an important step in bringing attention to the needs and potential of Americans with developmental disabilities.”<sup>1</sup>



One of the many organizations leading conversations and attention is the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD). They work with their partners “to create a social media campaign that highlights the many ways in which people with and without disabilities come together to form strong, diverse communities.”<sup>2</sup>

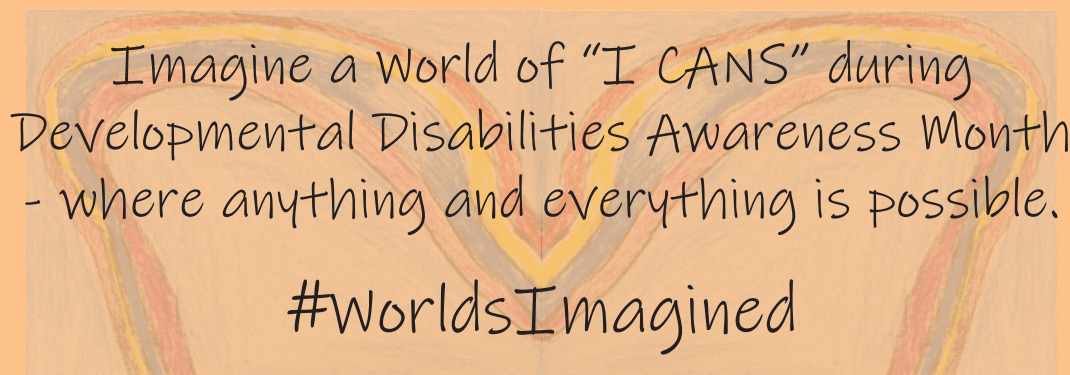
“The campaign seeks to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life, as well as awareness of the barriers that people with disabilities still sometimes face in connecting to the communities in which they live. Their theme this year is *Worlds Imagined*.”<sup>2</sup>

## So what are Developmental Disabilities?

“Developmental disabilities are a group of conditions due to an impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas. These conditions begin during the developmental period, may impact day-to-day functioning, and usually last throughout a person’s lifetime.”<sup>3</sup>

## Who is affected?

“Developmental disabilities occur among all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups. Recent estimates in the United States show that about one in six, or about 17%, of children aged 3 through 17 years have one or more developmental disabilities, such as: ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy, Hearing Loss, Intellectual Disability, Vision Impairment, and other developmental delays.”<sup>3</sup>



## DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

is a broad, umbrella term that encompasses a very diverse group of people.

These type of disabilities are present before the end of adolescence & affect a person's development in the areas of:



- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <p>May include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visual Impairment*</li> <li>Cerebral Palsy</li> <li>Hearing Loss**</li> <li>Spina bifida</li> <li>Ortho Impairment*</li> <li>Epilepsy</li> <li>OH†</li> <li>Muscular Dystrophy</li> <li>Speech Disorders</li> </ul> | <p>May include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Down syndrome*</li> <li>Cerebral Palsy*</li> <li>Multiple Disabilities</li> <li>Williams Syndrome</li> <li>Prader-Willi Syndrome</li> <li>Fetal Alcohol SD*</li> </ul> | <p>May include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learning Disabilities</li> <li>Intellectual Disability</li> <li>TBI†</li> <li>ADHD*</li> <li>Autism SD*</li> <li>SED*</li> <li>FXS*</li> <li>Abusive Head Trauma*</li> <li>Language Disorders</li> </ul> |
|--|---|---|

This chart is a basic guide intended to help increase understanding. All disabilities & abilities are on a spectrum and people who have been given general labels such as these are individuals and should be given the opportunity to express their individual talents and abilities without the limitations of stereotyped biases.

All people can achieve! If you know someone with a disability and want to know more, just ask them!

Sources: 1. <https://www.set-works.com/developmental-disabilities-awareness-month/>  
 2. & middle photo: <https://www.nacdd.org/ddam/>  
 3. <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/developmentaldisabilities/facts.html#ref>  
 Top right photo: <https://www.dandad.org/awards/professional/2019/impact/232334/the-disability-collection/>  
 Bottom right photo: <https://www.aclboulder.org/blog/tag/Disability>

