

Celebrate March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

March is celebrated as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness month to help everyone realize the importance of having individuals with developmental disabilities as active, contributing, fully included members of our communities. Recognizing this importance, Governor Bobby Jindal has proclaimed March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Louisiana. The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council encourages advocates to consider some of the strategies below to promote awareness of Developmental Disabilities in local communities.

Activities you can use to promote Developmental Disabilities Awareness in your community:

- Create an “End the R-Word” event by inviting every member of your community, school or organization to join the Special Olympics pledge drive to end the R-word.
 - [Sign your pledge by clicking here](#)
- Ask your local media to always use appropriate language in describing people with disabilities. Share with your local media the Guidelines for Reporting and Writing about People with Disabilities [click here to view the Guidelines.](#)
- Encourage all members of your community to adopt [People First Language](#). People First Language keeps the focus on the person instead of their disability.
 - For examples of people first language, [click here.](#)
- Write a letter to your local media outlets (newspaper, radio and TV) and invite them to include a positive piece or human-interest article about someone with a disability who lives and works in your community. ([Click for a sample letter.](#))
- Send a letter to the Editor of your local newspaper. ([Click for a sample letter.](#))
- Encourage your Mayor to complete a Proclamation. ([Click for a sample proclamation.](#))
- [Duncan Goes Exploring Coloring and Activity Book](#)- Mosaic, www.mosaicinfo.org.