DISABLED ACCESS FRIENDLY CAMPAIGN

The Disabled Access Friendly Campaign aims to provide teachers of English as a foreign language with free online material that can be used in teaching and skills building as well as examination practice, but that will at the same time raise awareness about issues affecting people with mobility/disability.

The best schools have always done more than just prepare students for tests. They raise awareness of the world in which we live and try to make it a better place.

Please find below an example of the kind of teaching activities that will be available.

WORKSHEET FOR INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

1. QUIZ

Tick (√) the things you can do.

1. Read the board when you're sitting at your desk.
2. Hear what the teacher is saying.
3. Go round the shops with your friends.
4. Play sports.
5. Talk to your friend on the phone.
6. Make yourself something to eat or drink.
7. Climb stairs, trees and hills.
8. Listen to, and/or sing along to, music.
9. Go supermarket shopping.
10. Cross the road.

2. Read and think.

i) Imagine you can't see well. Which of the things in the quiz would be more difficult to do?

ii) Imagine you can't hear well. Which of the things in the quiz would be more difficult to do?

iii) Imagine you can't walk well. Which of the things in the quiz would be more difficult to do?

iv) Imagine you have to use a wheelchair all the time. Which of the things in the quiz would be more difficult to do?
How to get involved in the Disabled Access Friendly campaign and be a teacher who makes a difference for tomorrow

1. Spread the word

Kindly spread the word amongst your colleagues by sending them this handout or posting it to your site, together with the free lesson provided by Dr. Luke Prodromou. If you are attending an ELT event, maybe you could consider acting as an ambassador for the campaign. We would provide information and handouts, or you could just talk about the Disabled Access Friendly campaign to colleagues and put them in touch with us. Several ELT colleagues have already kindly acted in this way as ambassadors for the campaign and spread the word at the 2nd ISTEK Schools International ELT Conference, Istanbul 2-3 April 2011, at the 9th ELTA IATEFL conference, Novi Sad, Serbia, 8-9 April 2011, and at the 45th Annual International IATEFL Conference and Exhibition, Brighton, U.K., 15th-19th April, 2011.

2. Use the Disabled Access Friendly campaign's teaching material.

Please use the campaign’s free downloadable teaching material. Our site www.disabled-accessfriendly.com will be launched soon, and we will let you know when it is ready. Already you can use the lesson kindly provided by Dr. Luke Prodromou, which we have sent you. Our material not only builds language skills and provides exam practice, but also raises awareness about people with mobility/disability and the challenges they face, and about different aspects of human diversity and how social integration can be an enriching experience for all. The material encourages students to notice their own and others’ behaviour and attitudes towards people with mobility/disability and to become more sensitive, positive and supportive where necessary.

3. Contribute teaching material yourself

You could send in a simple idea, suggestion, worksheet or contribute a full lesson-plan with activities. We would welcome any kind of contribution from teachers or other interested persons - you do not have to be a materials writer to contribute. We can all make use of our teaching or life experience to suggest ideas for a lesson or a particular text that could be used. You can send in an idea, an outline, or material which you think would make a good lesson at any level and for any age group. Every little bit helps. If necessary, we would then develop your idea into a more fully fledged lesson or worksheet.

Here are more detailed guidelines to bear in mind:

(a) The material may take the form of reading texts, quizzes, questionnaires, games, surveys, webquests, project work or a writing activity;
(b) The material can be at any level;
(c) The material can be aimed at any age group;
(d) The material can be average lesson length or taught over two or more lessons;
(e) The material can be designed for activities in or out of the classroom;

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(f) The material should be specifically about people with mobility/disability and their potential for active participation in all aspects of life, such as issues of access to places of education, work, public services, buildings, entertainment, transportation, issues affecting their everyday ability to move about and live independently, and other people's attitudes and behaviour towards them;

(g) The material may aim to practise language or skills, grammar, vocabulary or functions, or to provide facts, general knowledge and cultural awareness;

(h) The material may be serious or humorous, but always respectful of social difference and the dignity of others;

Optional

(i) In addition to the material itself you may like to provide a set of teachers' notes that state the general and specific aims of the material (in terms of language, skills or awareness raising) together with a detailed lesson plan and key with suggested answers.

Acknowledgement

Contributors of ideas or actual teaching material can chose to remain anonymous, or we can publish your name, the name of your school or institution and your biography on the site for publicity purposes.

4. Involve student teachers

If you are a teacher trainer then you might be able to get student teachers involved. Student teachers could write a lesson or worksheet that helps raise awareness, with the incentive that perhaps it will be uploaded to the Disabled Access Friendly site and used by teachers globally.

5. Share your own experience

Our website will also have a section entitled “Tell Your Story”, where we will upload personal accounts from people's experiences either with or as a person with physical disabilities. Many people have at some time in their lives been touched by an issue to do with disability that they would like to give voice to, to help raise awareness. We would also welcome short accounts of what policies member schools or institutions have regarding the inclusion of students with mobility problems.

Contact us

e-mail: disabledaccessfriendly@hotmail.com
Facebook “Disabled Access Friendly”
Look out for the launch of our website!
www.disabled-accessfriendly.com