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7th – 8th grade

Respect

Have you ever had such a bad day that your attitude affected everyone around you? Well imagine if you had a disability, and with your disability, everyone's attitude more directly impacts who you are as a person. When you have autism, or any significant disability, including an intellectual disability; its hard to feel like you fit in. People can cheer you up just as easily as they can bring you down. A constant feeling of pressure is on the person with a disability who wants to fit in but who is not always accepted by their peers or even by adults in their lives.

Imagine if everyone had a positive attitude towards all people with disabilities- they could make a lot of people happy all the time, without even trying hard. You can make people feel stronger inside and you can make a great difference in a whole community or in a whole school with a kind and always positive attitude. Our words can become a burden that weigh people down or they can be a set of wings to lift others up.

In a school setting someone who has a learning disability can really stand out. They may have a very bright and fun personality; but others may not even know it. Because people can take away the sense of security from others; the real person can get locked inside of themselves.

In the words of Doctor Seuss, "A person is a person no matter how small." What this statement says to me is that everyone has feelings and everyone should be treated with the same respect. If we treat everyone with the same happiness and positive attitude, especially towards people who have disabilities, we can make a tremendous affect on our community. When we brighten all people's spirits, we all glow a bit brighter.

A quote from Phyllis Diller, a female comedian who through her work gets to experience the magic of happiness and positive attitude everyday, expresses it well: "A smile is a word that sets everything strait". A smile can truly smooth a rough situation. Sometimes all you need is a smile to make other's day a little bit brighter.

Use the golden rule. Treat all others how you would be treated, including people with disabilities. Think about how you would want to be treated and treat everyone like that. It will brighten people's attitude and will make a large impact on the disabled community. Everyone gains and no now looses!

So consider how you great everyone, and think especially about the disabled community. Treat everyone how you would like to be treated, and share in the rewards.

This quote from an unknown author sums up this paper very nicely. "In the end we are all separate: our stories, not matter how similar, come to a fork and diverge. We are drawn to each other because of similarities, but it is out differences we must learn to respect.