Developing Self-Awareness and Self-Advocacy

In this Remarkable Idea, students will take a look at themselves to realize that despite any disability they might have, they still have abilities that other people do not.

This activity addresses:

• Communication
• Self-advocacy
• Alternative methods of access

What you need:

• iPad & Blue2 OR Jelly Bean & Hitch
• Paper
• TalkingBrix
• Poster board

About Remarkable Ideas

Over the course of 30-years, we have discovered amazing ways people use AbleNet products to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. Remarkable Ideas take these amazing discoveries and provide activities that incorporate alternative methods of access to ensure each student can participate, learn important educational and life skills, and have fun.

Take a look at our latest Remarkable Idea or visit www.ablenetinc.com to discover additional Remarkable Ideas.
What to do:

Business/Baseball/Character Cards

1. Create cards for each student, in a style of your choosing. These will have the students name, strengths, likes/interests, and a special section for “Things I Sometimes Need Help With.”

2. Take a picture of each student for his or her cards. These pictures should be fun or show a little of the student’s personality.

3. Use the camera app on an iPad/iPod with a Blue 2 as the shutter button.

4. Use the webcam on a computer with a Hitch set to mouse click and a Jelly Bean switch as the camera shutter.

5. Create lists of strengths, interests, and things students need help with.

6. Over the course of a day, week, or month remind students to think about things they are good at, or things they may need help with. Provide TalkingBrix for students to let you know when they realize they need help with something or that they are good at something. Add these to their lists.

Listing Our Strengths

Keep a running list in the classroom of student strengths. Whenever a student adds a strength to their list, you can add it here as well. This will encourage other students that need help with something to go to that student for help instead of a teacher. Staff in the classroom can ask these students for help as well.

Additional Suggestions:

Be sure to include yourself in this project. Showing the students that there are things you need help with, too, is a great way to boost their confidence.

These cards can assist new staff or substitute teachers that don’t know your students very well. You may wish to add some things to the “Sometimes I Need Help With” section. (ex. transitioning, expressing my feelings, etc.)