Elementary School Events & Activities

Classroom Activities

- Show the "What is Rare Disease Day?" video.
- Download and print this coloring sheet. Ask students to color in the hands and hang up all the handprints on a bulletin board in the hallway to raise awareness of Rare Disease Day.
- Show off your classroom’s support of Rare Disease Day by participating in Handprints Across America! Take a picture and share it in the Handprints Across America 2017 Gallery!

Bullying & Acceptance

There are more than 30 million people affected by rare diseases and children are the large majority. Many children with rare diseases face bullying and lack of peer acceptance - teach your students about bullying, acceptance, and breaking down social barriers.

- Ask the students discussion questions:
  o What is a bully? How does a bully act?
  o Have you ever been bullied? How did it make you feel?
  o What should you do if you see someone being bullied?
- Define what bullying means.
  o Teasing
  o Talking about someone
  o Spreading rumors
  o Leaving kids out on purpose
- Explain to children that people may look different, talk different, and think differently - but they have the same feelings as you.
- Explain to children the concept of classmates always eating together - if someone is alone, join them or invite them to your table.
- Encourage students to sit with someone different and get to know each other.
  o Explain to the students that this can eliminate bullying and social isolation in the classroom.

Questions? Write to NORD at education@rarediseases.org.