

ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION «WE ARE DIFFERENT»

Maria Cecilia Ballaben Stegun, Fabiene CORTIJO SALUN et Maria Isabel Sampaio Dias Baptista

The Association of Research and Publication «We Are Different», founded in September 1997, is a non governmental, non profit and non political organization.

AIMS OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. To research facts, methods, work strategies, and techniques which are related to the persons with disabilities and which can somehow facilitate their process of social inclusion;
2. To collect data about: family relationships, education, professionals and persons with any kind of disability;
3. To publish the results of research and experiments not only through the publication «We Are Different. After All, Who Isn't?», but also through other means such as books, newspapers, interviews, magazines, lectures, radio and TV programs, and the Internet;
4. To bring to the public in general, the real capacities of the persons with disability;
5. To defend the rights and to delimit duties, interests and privileges of the persons with disability;
6. To promote, to stimulate, and to participate in congresses, conferences and seminars that advertise the work of the Association;

7. To provide free discussion of all subjects of interest to the persons with disabilities;
8. To establish and encourage the exchange with associations of the same kind in Brazil and abroad.

The Association was created from the publication of the Newsletter «We Are Different. After All Who Isn't?» It is an independent newsletter, non profit making and without any ties with political parties or institutions.

The newsletter has as its main objective to bring forth to the public what makes each one special and unique: his or her experiences. That includes life experience, family and professional experience, research studies, testimonies by and about very special people, to special people.

In the issues of « We Are Different» the reader will also find personal accounts with opinions and life stories told by the «different» persons themselves. This project started from the initiative of three educators who were concerned with the discrimination, the segregation and the prejudice suffered by the persons with special needs and their inclusion in the society. The newsletter is a way to deal with the issue of the participation of the society in creating standards of (ab) normality, so as to make people aware of the differences that exist inside themselves.

Above all, this project consists of the elucidation, the welcoming reception and the debate among people

about fundamental issues to the persons with special needs, such as the inclusion. Such an issue involves not only the «different» person, but also his or her family and friends, the school and the society in general.

What we have noticed is that the discrimination and prejudice arise from the lack of information. In that sense «We Are Different» aims at portraying in its sessions what really exists in the behavior, abilities, knowledge and lifestyle of the very special special people.

SESSIONS IN THE NEWSLETTER

1. **POINT OF VIEW** : deals with issues treated in other sessions of the newsletter and is written by the team in charge.
2. **TESTIMONY**: a space reserved for accounts of experience of those who lead a special life or who live with special people.
3. **INTERVIEW**: a session dedicated to interviews.

4. **THEORY X PRACTICE**: presents summaries of works and research studies carried out by professionals.
5. **GETTING AHEAD**: develops issues of general interest.
6. **BROWSING**: indicates sites in the Internet.
7. **HINTS AND TIPS**: curiosities about issues dealt with in other sessions.
8. **TUNE IN**: events agenda, courses, congresses, meetings and books suggestions..

The Newsletter «We Are Different» is financially supported by the system of subscriptions; it is published every two months and its 2000 copies are distributed in Brazil, Argentina, Spain and Portugal.¹

-
1. *The on/line edition of the newsletter English-Portuguese can be accessed at the following address: **http:// WWW. aleph.com.br/diferent** e.mail messages to **diferent@aleph.com.br***