Objective: Students will describe ways that some disabilities can be prevented. Students will include information about preventing disabilities in their personal health and wellness plans.

Materials:
- Disability Prevention Information Worksheet
- Dr. Seuss Cartoon
- Website pages

Vocabulary: birth defects folic acid mental retardation poliomyelitis developmental disabilities immunization polio rubella

New York State Learning Standards:
- ELA Standard 4: Language for Social Interaction
- Health Standard 1: Personal Health and Fitness
- SS Standard 1: History of the United States and New York
- The Arts Standard 1: Creating, Performing and Participating in the Arts

Procedure:
1. The teacher should view the Prevention section of the Medicine wing of the website to gain background information.
2. Selections from the website may be viewed by students online or copies of those pages may be printed for student use.
3. Before students view the information from the website, they should conduct research to complete the Disability Prevention Information Worksheet.
4. After completing the worksheet, view the website or other website pages and discuss the student’s findings of the information.
5. Sometimes humor is used to make a serious and important point. Discuss the Dr. Seuss cartoon and its message.
6. Ask students to design original cartoons that illustrate something found on the website.
7. Ask students to think about how this information affects their choices in terms of personal health and wellness plans.

Closure/Ticket out the door: Share one thing you learned about prevention that will impact your life.
As scientific and medical knowledge increased, the care, treatment and prevention of disabilities changed. With your partner, write what you think is important about each of the following. Go to the museum’s website to research the following topics and add to your thoughts.

**Vaccinations**

Your thoughts:
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**Newborn screening**

Your thoughts:
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nutrition

Your thoughts:

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alcohol use

Your thoughts:

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Write a paragraph to explain why it is important to be aware of this information in terms of preventing disabilities.

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