

People First Language

A Simple Guide to Basic Respect

People First Language

People with disabilities.
He/she has an intellectual disability.
He/she has autism.
He has a diagnosis of Down Syndrome.
He/she has a learning disability.
He/she has a physical disability.
He/she is of short stature/she is a little person.
He/she has a mental health diagnosis.
He/she uses a wheelchair/mobility chair.
He/she receives special education services.
He/she has a developmental disability.
Children without disabilities.
Communicates with her eyes/device/etc.
Customer.
Congenital disability.
Brain injury.
Accessible parking, hotel room, etc.
He/she needs ... or he/she uses ...

Labels NOT to Use

The handicapped or disabled.
He/she is mentally retarded.
He/she is autistic.
He/she is Downs.
He/she is learning disabled.
He/she is a quadriplegic/crippled.
He/she is a dwarf/midget.
He/she is emotionally disturbed or mentally ill.
He/she is wheelchair bound
He/she is in special education.
He/she is developmentally delayed.
Normal or healthy kids.
Is non-verbal.
Client, consumer, recipient, etc.
Birth defect.
Brain damaged.
Handicapped parking, hotel room, etc.
He/she has a problem with...
He/she has special needs.

Keep thinking. There are many descriptors we need to change!