

PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE

Words have power. Words can hurt...or words can help. When you use words to point out what is different about someone and make that the most important thing about him, it hurts.

People First Language puts the person before the disability, and it describes what a person *has*, not who a person *is*.

Examples of People First Language

Say:

People/children/adults with disabilities.
Paul has a cognitive disability (diagnosis).
Kate has autism (or a diagnosis of...).
Ryan has Down syndrome (or a diagnosis of...).
Sara has a learning disability.
Bob has a physical disability.
Mary is of short stature/she's a little person.
Tom has mental health needs.
Nora uses a wheelchair/mobility chair.
Steve receives special education services and/or supports.
Tonya has needs in the area of _____.
Children without disabilities.
Mike communicates with his eyes/device/etc.
Child, Person, Adult...
Sophie has a congenital disability.
Chris has a brain injury.
Accessible parking, hotel room, etc.
She needs supports/services in _____
General Education
The students with IEPs...

Instead of:

The handicapped or disabled.
He's retarded/mentally retarded.
She's autistic.
He's Down's/a Down's person.
She's learning disabled.
He's a quadriplegic/is crippled.
She's a dwarf/midget.
He's emotionally disturbed/mentally ill.
She's confined to/is wheelchair bound.
He's in special ed; he's a sped student.
She's developmentally delayed.
Normal/healthy/typical children.
He is non-verbal.
Client, consumer, recipient, etc.
She has birth defect
Chris is brain damaged
Handicapped parking, hotel room, etc.
She has problems/special needs.
Regular Education
The IEP students....