

People First Language

A Simple Guide to Basic Respect

People First Language

People with disabilities

He has a cognitive disability.

She has autism.

He has a diagnosis of Down Syndrome.

She has a learning disability.

He has a physical disability.

She is of short stature/she is a little person.

He has a mental health diagnosis.

She uses a wheelchair/mobility chair.

He receives special education services.

She has a developmental disability.

Kids without disabilities

Communicates with her eyes/device/etc.

Customer

Congenital disability

Brain injury

Accessible parking, hotel room, etc.

She needs...or she uses...

Labels NOT to Use

The handicapped or disabled

He is mentally retarded.

She is autistic.

He is Downs.

She is learning disabled.

He is a quadriplegic/crippled.

She is a dwarf/midget.

He is emotionally disturbed/mentally ill.

She is wheelchair bound/in a
or confined in a wheelchair.

He is in special education.

She is developmentally delayed.

Normal or healthy kids

Is non-verbal

Client, consumer, recipient, etc.

Birth defect

Brain damaged

Handicapped parking, hotel room, etc.

She has a problem with.../She has special
needs



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

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