

scientist, politician.

What do you call people

People First

with Disabilities? Friends, neighbors, coworkers, dad, grandma, Joe's sister, big brother, George,

driver, dancer, mechanic, lawyer, judge, student, educator, home owner, renter, man, woman,

- Recognize that a disability is not a challenge to overcome, and avoid saying people succeed in spite of a disability. Ordinary things and accomplishments do not become extraordinary just because a person with a disability does them. What is extraordinary are the lengths people with disabilities have to go through and the barriers they have to overcome to do most ordinary things.
- Use handicap to refer to a barrier created by people or the environment. Use disability to indicate the functional limitation that interferes with a person's mental, physical or sensory abilities, such as walking, talking hearing and learning. For example, people with disabilities, who use wheelchairs, are handicapped by stairs.

- Do not refer to a person as bound to or confined to a wheelchair. Wheelchairs are liberating to people with disabilities because they provide mobility.
- Do not use "special" to mean segregated such as separate schools or buses for people with disabilities or to suggest a disability itself makes someone special.
- Avoid euphemisms such as physically challenged, inconvenienced and differently abled.
- Promote understanding, respect, dignity and positive outlooks.

People First Language recognizes that individuals with disabilities are first and foremost people. It emphasizes each person's value, individuality, dignity and capabilities. The following examples provide guidance on what terms to use and which ones are inappropriate when talking or writing about people with disabilities.

<u>People First Language to Use</u>	INSTEAD OF	<u>Labels that Stereotype/Devalue</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People/individuals with disabilities an adult who has a disability a child with a disability, a person 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The handicapped the disabled
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People without disabilities individuals/atypical kids typical kids 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Normal people/healthy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People with mental illness 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mentally ill; the emotionally disturbed; insane; crazy; demented; psycho; lunatic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessible buses, bathrooms, parking, hotel rooms 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handicapped buses, bathrooms, parking, hotel rooms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People with developmental disabilities 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> retarded, the mentally retarded
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A person who has Down Syndrome 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Downs kids, Mongoloid

cousin, Mrs. Robbins, husband, wife, colleague, employee, reporter, boss,