

Appropriate Person-Centered Language

APPROPRIATE -- USE -- (YES)	INAPPROPRIATE -- AVOID USING -- (NO)
A person with a disability / has a disability people with disabilities / have disabilities/ disabled person	The disabled / the handicapped, invalids, patients, crippled, deformed, defective
People without disabilities, typical person	Normal, healthy, able-bodied
Wheelchair user / uses a wheelchair	Wheelchair-bound / confined to a wheelchair, crippled
Congenital disability / birth anomaly	Birth defect / affliction
Has cerebral palsy (CP) or other condition	A <i>victim</i> of cerebral palsy
People who have mental retardation (MR)/ person with mental retardation	The mentally retarded / mentally deficient a retard (offensive) a feeble-minded person
Child with a developmental delay (DD)/ person with a developmental disability	Slow
A Person with Down Syndrome	The Down's person / Mongoloid (offensive)
A Person who has epilepsy/ people with seizure disorders/ seizure / epileptic episode or event	The epileptic (to describe a person) the epileptics fits / epileptic fits
People who are blind / visually impaired Person who is hard of hearing person who is deaf / the Deaf (When Deafness is cultural it can be capitalized in those instances.)	<i>The</i> blind - hearing impaired (translates as "broken hearing" in sign language) deaf-mute deaf and dumb
Speech or communication disability	Tongue-tied, mute

(Adapted from Simply Ask! A Guide to Disability Etiquette, Commonwealth Currents, September 1997 and The Memphis Center for Independent Living)

Non-tabled version below: