

***LANGUAGE MATTERS
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE
PEOPLE FIRST!***

People First language promotes understanding, respect, dignity, and a positive outlook for people with disabilities.

People First language eliminates generalizations, assumptions, and stereotypes by focusing on the person rather than the disability.

People First language puts the person first in thought and word.

People First language emphasizes abilities, not limitations.

People First language is an objective way of acknowledging, communicating, and reporting on disabilities.

People First language is not a fad or politically correct jargon.

People with disabilities want to be thought of as regular and ordinary people just like everyone else.

Recognize that a disability is not a challenge to be overcome, it is only part of who the person is and their unique characteristics.

Be sensitive and respectful when choosing the words you use to address a person with a disability.

Do not use “special” as a euphemism.

Don't use labels; they do not reflect the individuality, equality, dignity, or talent of a person with a disability.

REMEMBER – LANGUAGE MATTERS!

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