

WORDS MATTER



The following are suggestions for using language in a manner that avoids reducing individuals to a series of labels, symptoms or medical terms. This approach is called “People First” language. Note: there is not universal agreement about this topic and language continues to evolve.

PREFERRED

accessible parking / accommodations
children with disabilities
non-disabled
person with a disability
intellectual disability
person with a learning disability
person with multiple sclerosis (MS)
person who uses a wheelchair
stroke survivor / had a stroke
person with dyslexia

AVOID

handicapped accessible
special needs children
able-bodied, normal or healthy
crippled, physically challenged, handicapped
mental retardation
slow learner
person who suffers from MS
wheelchair-bound / confined to a wheelchair
stroke victim / suffered from a stroke
dyslexic