# DISABILITY ETIQUETTE LANGUAGE GUIDE

WORDS MATTER: Learning and using acceptable, empowering words with a focus on positive attributes and strengths, can show respect to people with disabilities.

# WORDS TO LOSE WORDS TO Live by

**the handicapped/disabled persons with a disability\***

**she is mentally ill/emotionally disturbed she has a mental health condition\***

**the Down syndrome worker an employee with Down syndrome\***

**confined to or wheelchair bound person who uses a wheelchair**

**handicapped parking accessible parking**

**stricken with, victim, suffered from had or has a disability**

**special bus separate bus**

**disabled rights disability rights**

**SPED kids or Special Ed kids student who accesses special education services**

**inclusion kid camper who accesses inclusion services**

 **differently abled/handi-capable/extra-ordinary people with disabilities or neurodiverse**

**normal or healthy kids child without a disability or neurotypical**

\*Person First Language is used to tell what a person has not what a person is.

Exception: within the Autistic community, there is a

trending preference for identify first language, particularly with adults and older teens. When working with children, start with person first language - but with all ages honor

the preference of the individual

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