

# Person First Language

Emphasize abilities, not limitations

Do not use special to mean segregated

Do not refer to a person as confined or bound to a wheelchair

Never equate a person with a disability

Avoid negative words that imply tragedy

Promote understanding, respect, dignity, and positive outlooks.



✓ **YES:** Ben walks with crutches.  
✗ **NO:** Ben is crippled.

✓ **YES:** Jessie has autism.  
✗ **NO:** Jessie is autistic.

✓ **YES:** "children with Down syndrome"  
✗ **NO:** "Down syndrome children"

✓ **YES:** Hannah has an intellectual disability.  
✗ **NO:** Hannah is retarded.

## Words Really Do Matter.

ADA 25  
AMERICANS WITH  
DISABILITIES ACT  
1990-2015

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