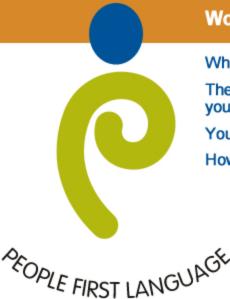
## Would you like people to define and judge you only by:



Where you live?

The clothes you wear?

Your tattoos?

How you look?

Of course not.

## And people with disabilities don't like it either.

If a person's disability is not relevant to the conversation, don't mention it. If it is necessary to mention it, then always be respectful and use PEOPLE FIRST language.

PEOPLE FIRST language puts the PERSON before their DISABILITY, and recognizes that a person HAS a disability, a person IS NOT the disability. There is more to each of us than any one characteristic we may

Using PEOPLE FIRST language positively empowers and includes people. Using stereotypes and negative language limits and segregates them.

A person with a disability is – first and foremost – a person.

"Handle them carefully, for words have more power than atom bombs."

Pearl Stratchan

I'm not crippled or confined. I use my wheelchair to play basketball.



Instead of: Antoine is slow or retarded Say: Antoine has an intellectual disability

Instead of: Marly is confined to a wheelchair or wheelchair bound Say: Marly uses a wheelchair

Instead of: Roberto is psycho, crazy, or loco Say: Roberto has an emotional disability

Instead of: Handicapped parking space Say: Accessible parking space

Instead of: Mr. Joseph is afflicted with, a victim of, or suffers from Alzheimer's Disease

Say: Mr. Joseph has Alzheimer's Disease

Instead of: Jimmy is slow or learning disabled

Say: Jimmy has a learning disability

I'm not autistic or on the spectrum. I'm Robbie.



We speak with our hands: we aren't "deaf and dumb"